



DARK NIGHTS

DEATH
METAL

1

SPEED METAL



AGES 13+

WILLIAMSON
BARROWS
FERREIRA
LUCAS

DOOMSDAY CLOCK



THE STORY THAT REWROTE THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF DC!

"An inspiration."

— AIPT

"It goes beyond, instead of
just paying tribute."

— io9

"A love letter to *Watchmen*."

— Newsarama

"A must-have book."

— Multiversity

By the *New York Times*
bestselling team

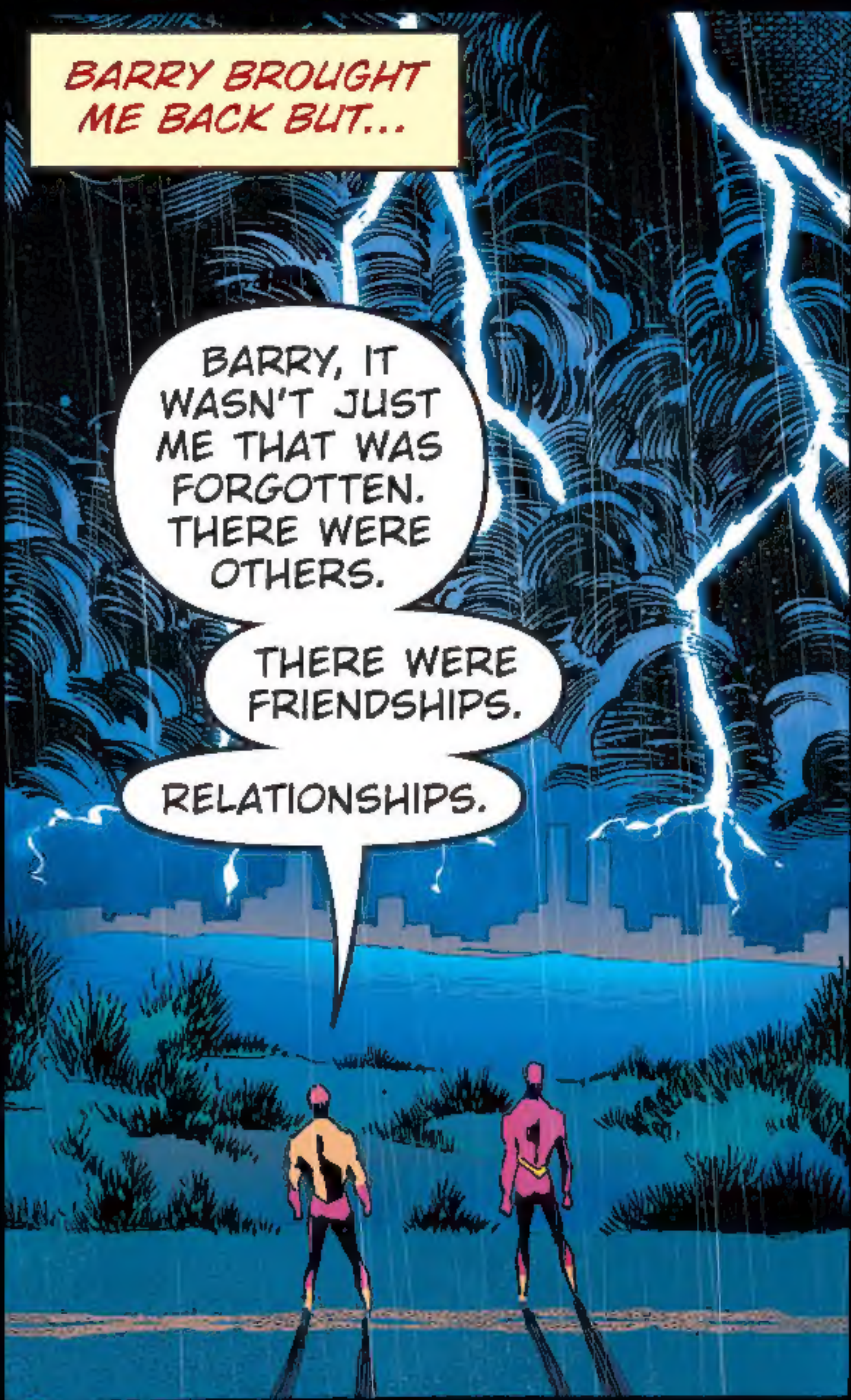
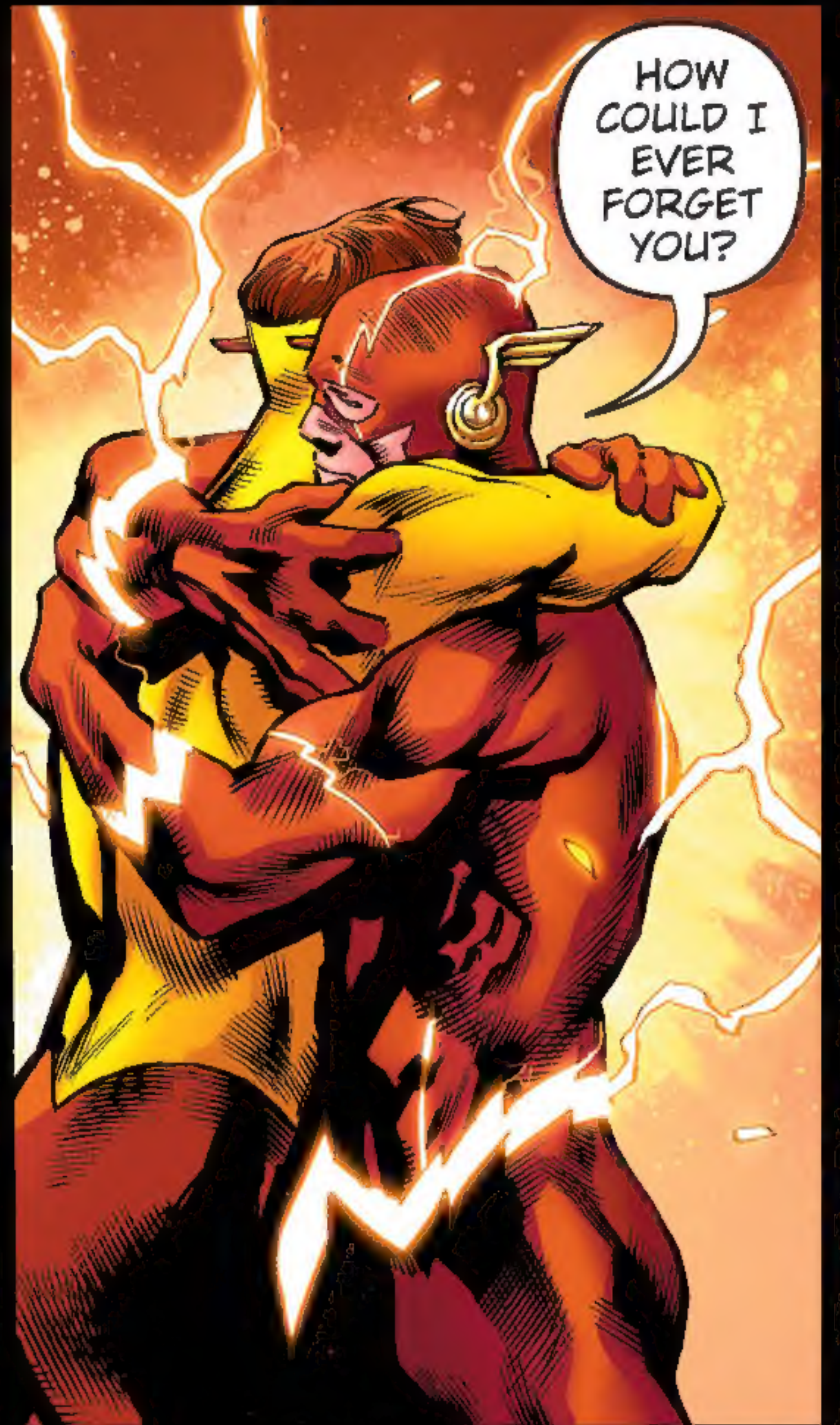
GEOFF JOHNS
GARY FRANK
BRAD ANDERSON



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SOMEONE ELSE.

EVEN THEN I FELT LIKE I HAD TO WAIT FOR THE UNIVERSE TO SHOW ME ITS PLAN FOR ME...

...BUT SOMEONE NEW HAD OTHER PLANS...

AFTER THAT I TRIED TO MOVE FORWARD, RETURN TO MY LIFE. BE WITH MY FRIENDS. BUT IT WAS AS IF THE UNIVERSE HELD ME BACK.

THAT OBSESSION HURT PEOPLE I LOVE.

I FOUGHT TO BE REDEEMED BUT THAT CAME WITH A COST...

...A NEW MISSION TO FIX THE TIMELINE.

MISTAKES I HAD TO PAY FOR.

DROVE ME TO MAKE MISTAKES I NEVER THOUGHT I WAS CAPABLE OF.

NO MATTER HOW FAST I RAN, I KNEW I WAS STILL MISSING SOMETHING, AND I'D DO ANYTHING TO FIND IT.



...THE BATMAN
WHO LAUGHS.

A MAD CREATURE
BIRTHED FROM THE
DEEPEST PITS OF THE
DARK MULTIVERSE WAS
DISRUPTING OUR WORLD
WORSE THAN EVER
BEFORE. TURNING US
AWAY FROM HOPE
TOWARD DESPAIR.

I TRIED TO STOP HIM,
BUT HE USED THE
POWERS OF AN
ANCIENT GOD TO DO
THE IMPOSSIBLE...

...TO STEAL THE
MOBIUS CHAIR.

AGAIN, I FELT AS
IF THE UNIVERSE
HAD ABANDONED
ME. I HOPED FOR
ANSWERS...

BUT NONE
CAME.

...AND SHE
REUNITED ME
WITH OLD
FRIENDS.

THEN WONDER
WOMAN SAVED ME...

BUT THE BATMAN
WHO LAUGHS
BECAME SOMETHING
DARKER. SOMETHING
MORE EVIL THAN
ANYTHING THE
MULTIVERSE HAD
EVER SEEN
BEFORE...

AND NOW I'M
JUST AS LOST AS
I WAS IN THE
SPEED FORCE.

I DON'T KNOW
THE PATH THE
UNIVERSE WANTS
ME ON, SO...

HAHAHAHAHA
HAHAHAHA
HAHAHAHA
HAHAHAHA



JAY, WALLY,
FOLLOW ME!



SPEED METAL

Joshua Williamson writer Eddy Barrows penciller
Eber Ferreira inker Adriano Lucas colorist Steve Wands letterer
Barrows, Ferreira, Lucas cover Peach Momoko variant cover
Andrew Marino editor Marie Javins executive editor



WHERE WE HEADED, GENTLEMEN?!

WE JUST KEEP RUNNING.

THAT MONSTER HAS USED HIS NIGHTMARISH IMAGINATION TO CREATE A WORLD WITH NO ESCAPE!

THEN WE'LL GO TO ANOTHER!

KRAKAK-SRUGH

AH!

WALLY, YOU THINK I DIDN'T TRY THAT?!

I EVEN TOOK THE RISK OF GOING BACK IN TIME, BUT NOTHING WORKED.

PERPETUA HAS DESTROYED MOST OF THE MULTIVERSE!

WELL, WE BETTER GET A PLAN TOGETHER FAST, BECAUSE WHATEVER THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS HAS BECOME... HE'S GAINING ON US!





HEY!
WHERE HAVE
YOU ALL
BEEN?

KID
FLASH!

I'VE BEEN
SEARCHING FOR
THE TEEN TITANS FOR
WEEKS AND WAS
JUST ABOUT TO GIVE
UP WHEN I FELT
YOUR SPEED FORCE
THROUGH THE--

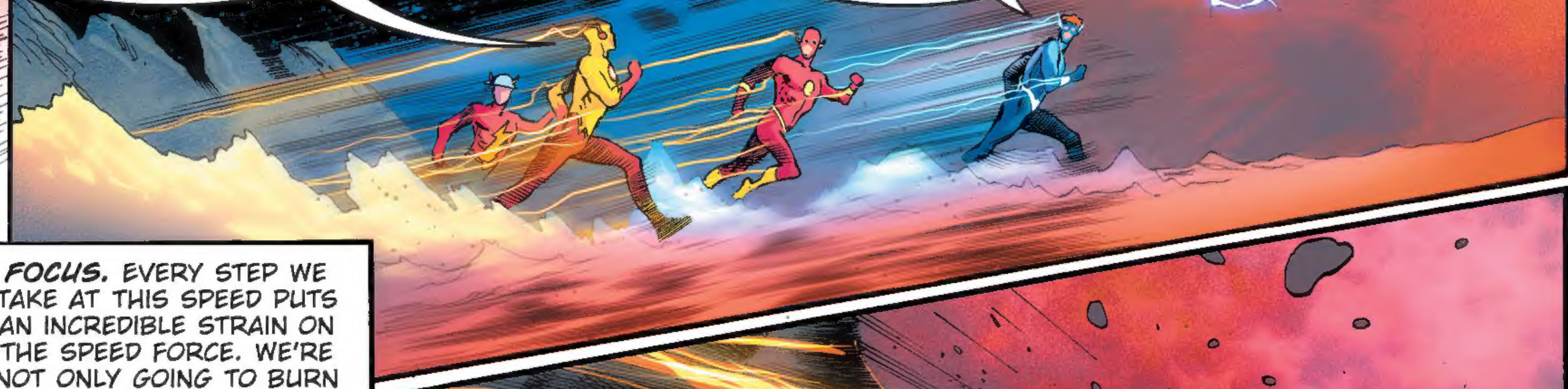
WHOA, WALLY! WHEN
DID YOU START WEARING
BLUE? AND WHY DO YOU
HAVE THE HYDROGEN
SYMBOL ON YOUR
FOREHEAD?

LONG
STORY.

FAST
VERSION?

THE BATMAN
WHO LAUGHS
WANTS TO STEAL
ANTI-CRISIS ENERGY
INSIDE OF ME.

WHAT DOES
THAT HAVE TO
DO WITH--



FOCUS. EVERY STEP WE
TAKE AT THIS SPEED PUTS
AN INCREDIBLE STRAIN ON
THE SPEED FORCE. WE'RE
NOT ONLY GOING TO BURN
OUR BODIES OUT, WE'RE
GOING TO BURN THE
SPEED FORCE OUT.



EITHER
WAY
WE'RE--

BOOM

BOOM BOOM

BOOM BOOM BOOM

NO, BUT
I RECOGNIZE
IT...

BOOM

ARE
THOSE WAR
DRUMS?

BOOM





BOOM

**BOOM
BOOM**

IT'S A
HORDE OF
DARK
FLASHES!

THE BATMAN WHO
LAUGHS MUST HAVE
UNLEASHED THEM FROM
THE DARK MULTIVERSE
TO RUN US DOWN.

HE'S
TOYING WITH
US!

I HATE
FAST-RUNNING
ZOMBIES! WHY
DID HE SEND
THEM?!

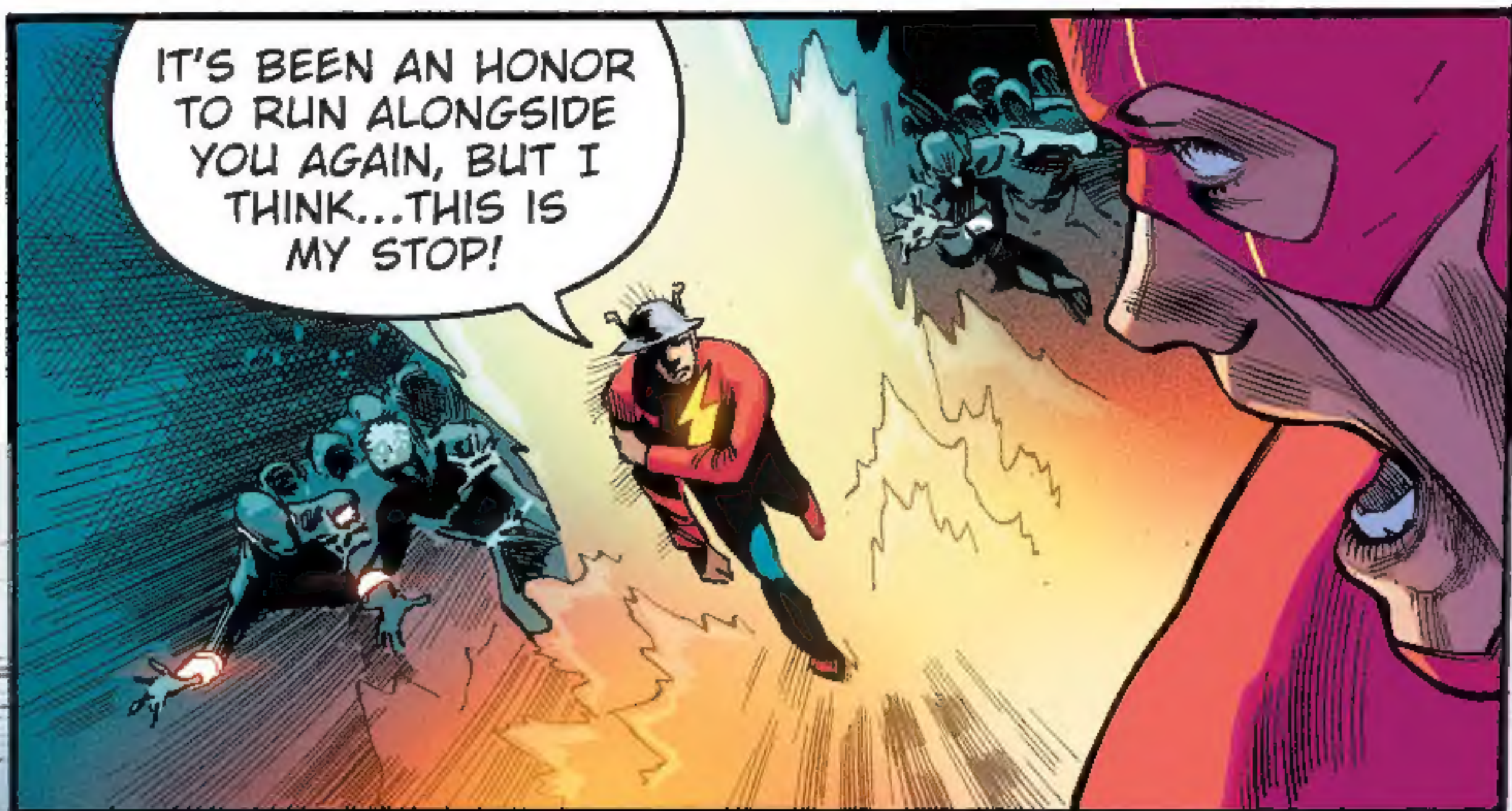
BECAUSE HE'S
NOT TRYING TO
JUST OUTRUN US...
HE WANTS TO OUT-
SMART US.

IF THESE
DARK FLASHES
ARE CONNECTED TO
OUR SPEED FORCE,
THEN THEIR SPEED
WILL BURN IT
OUT EVEN
FASTER!

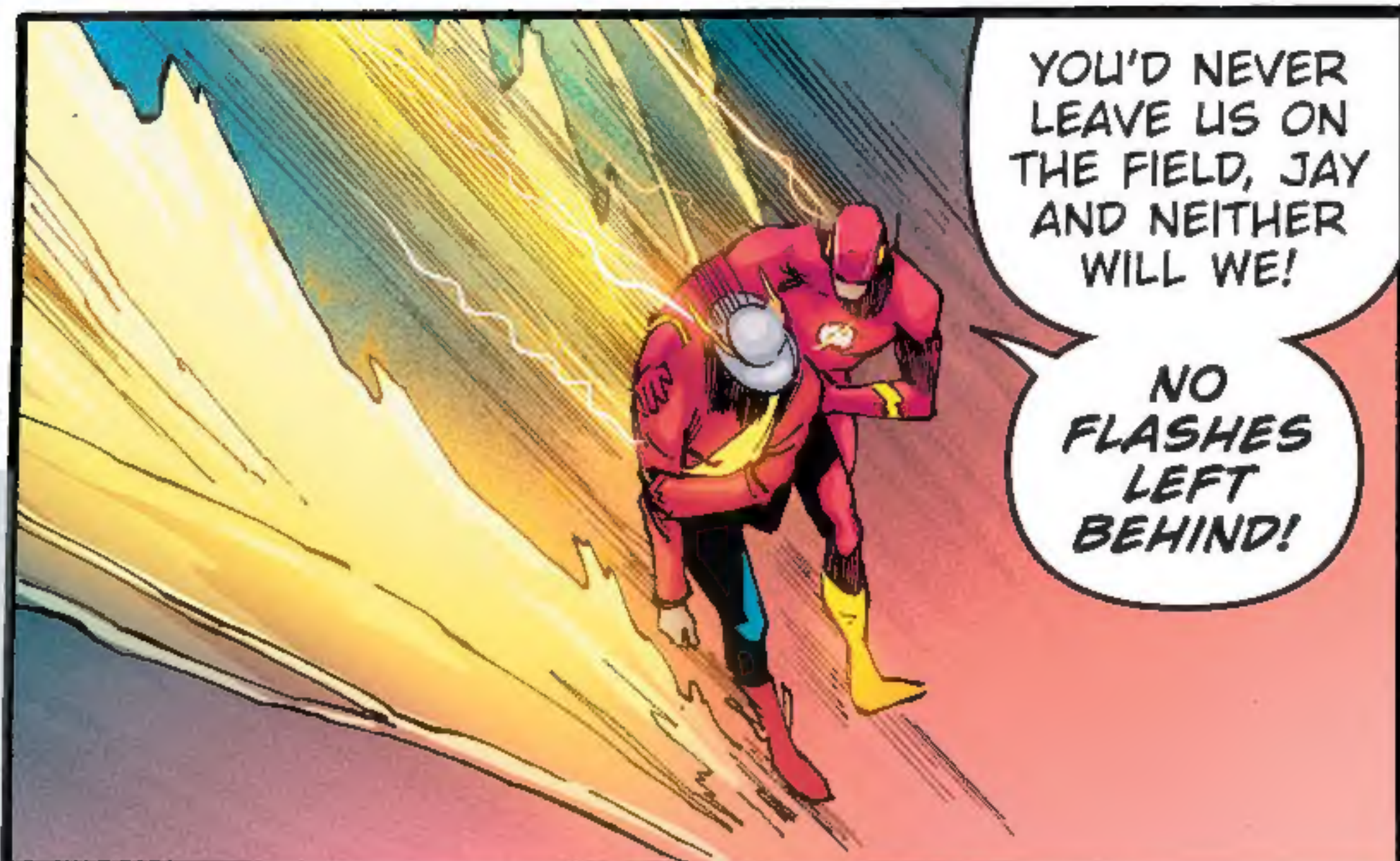


AH!
DANG!

THEY BURN,
ALRIGHT!



IT'S BEEN AN HONOR
TO RUN ALONGSIDE
YOU AGAIN, BUT I
THINK...THIS IS
MY STOP!



YOU'D NEVER
LEAVE US ON
THE FIELD, JAY
AND NEITHER
WILL WE!

NO
FLASHES
LEFT
BEHIND!



END OF
THE LINE,
WALLY.
HAHAHA
HAHA!

THERE'S
A WAY I CAN
BUY US SOME
TIME...

...BUT
IT'S
RISKY!



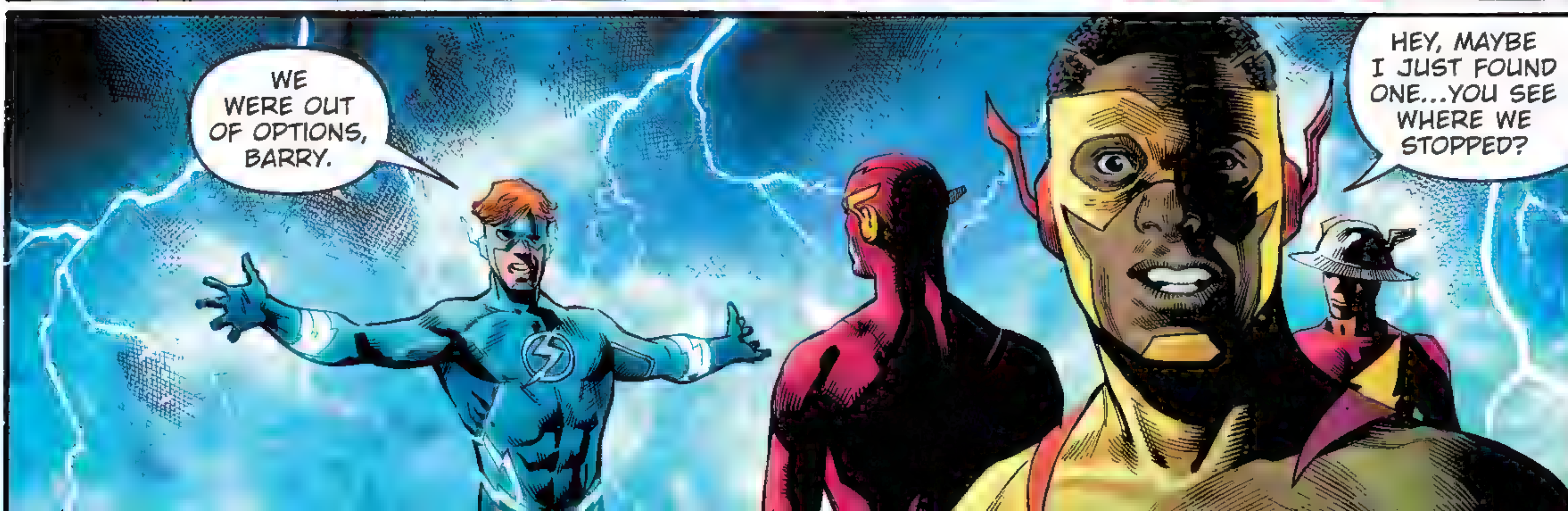
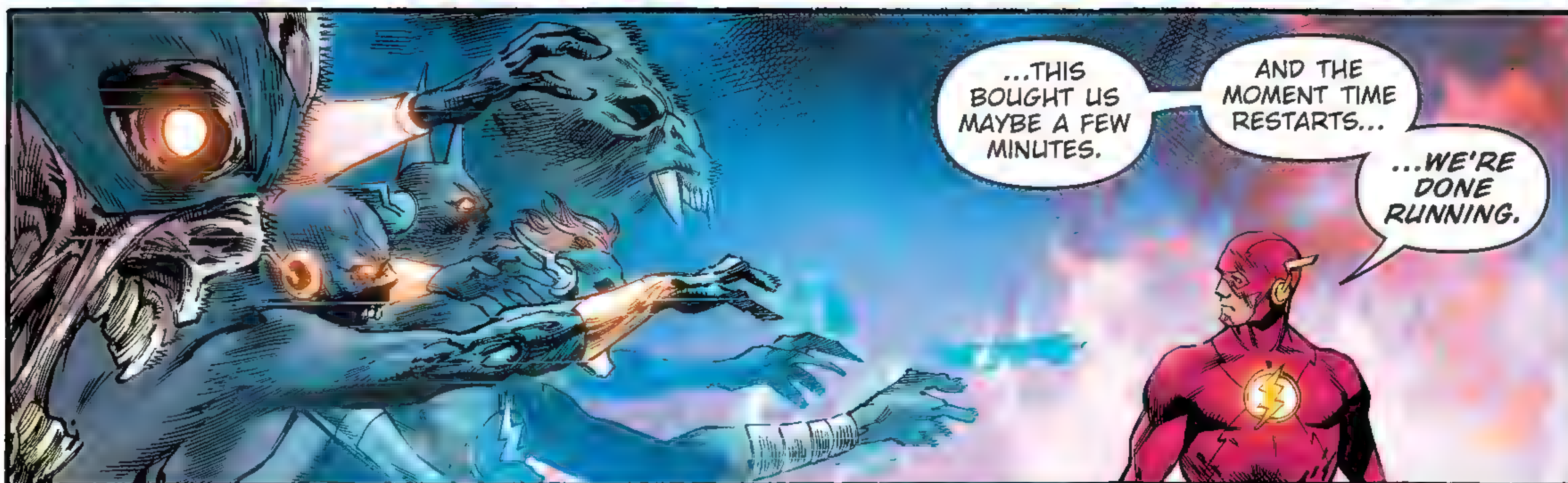
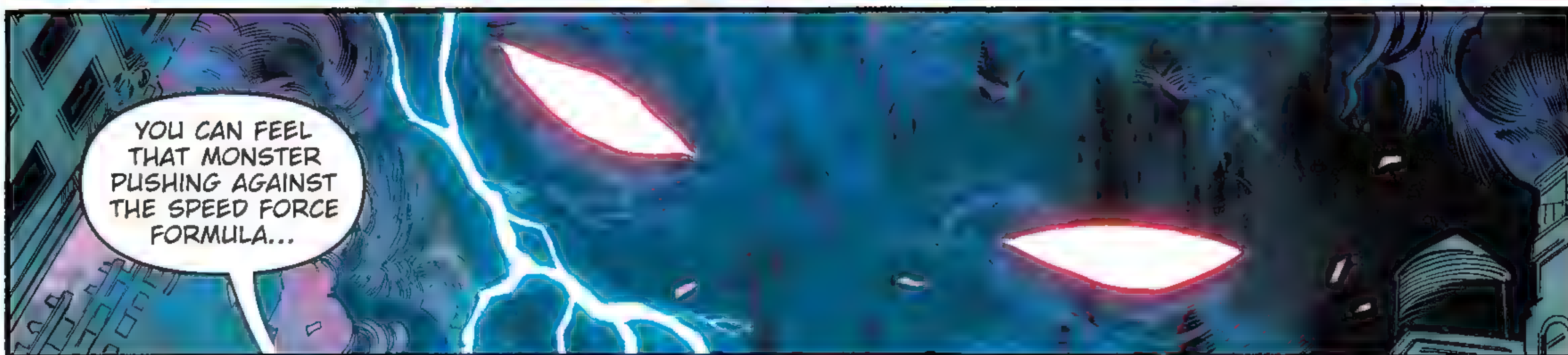
WE DON'T
HAVE TIME
FOR--



KEEP
CLOSE!



$3 \times 2(9YZ)4A = ?$



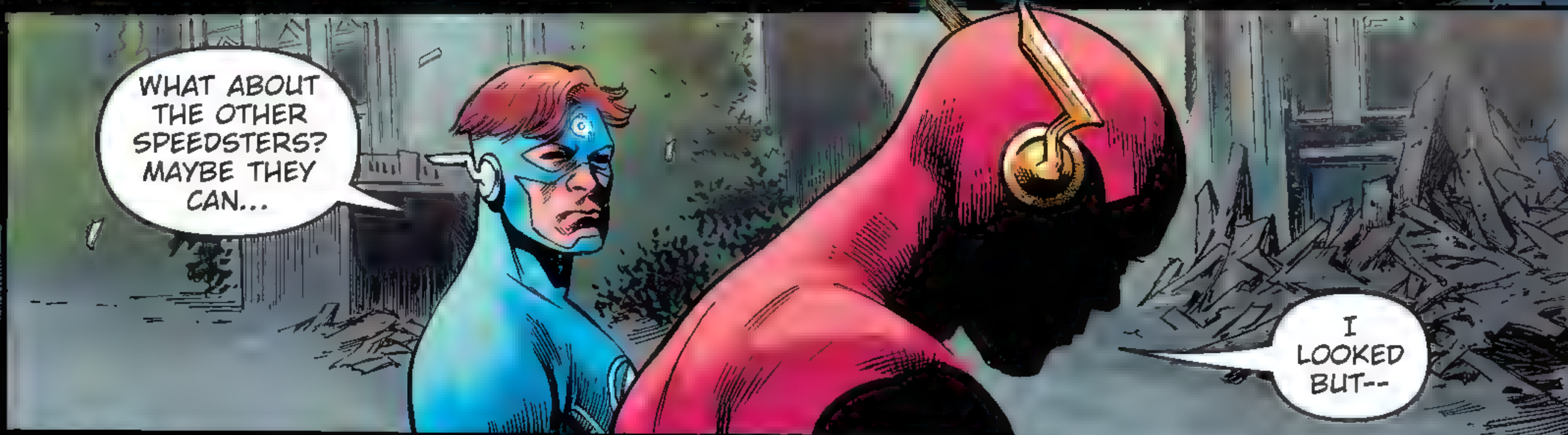


CENTRAL CITY? THE FLASH MUSEUM!

MAYBE WE CAN FIND SOMETHING HERE TO HELP US RUN FASTER?

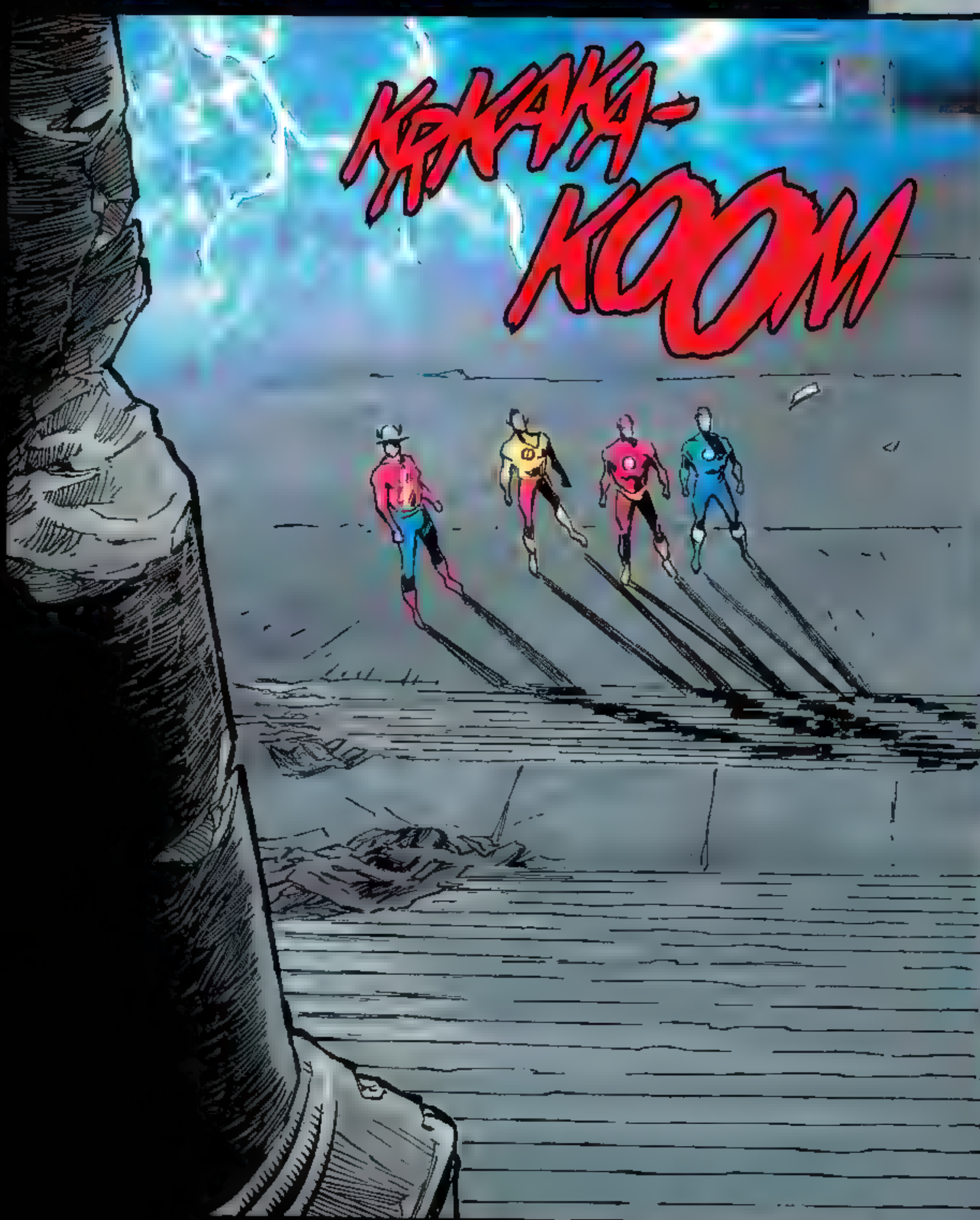
I CAME THROUGH HERE DAYS AGO. SEARCHED IT TOP TO BOTTOM.

IT'S ALL GONE.



WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER SPEEDSTERS? MAYBE THEY CAN...

I LOOKED BUT--



THEN IT'S ON US TO GET JUSTICE.

WE PUSHED THE SPEED FORCE AS HARD AS WE CAN, JAY. OUR OWN STEPS GENERATE IT.

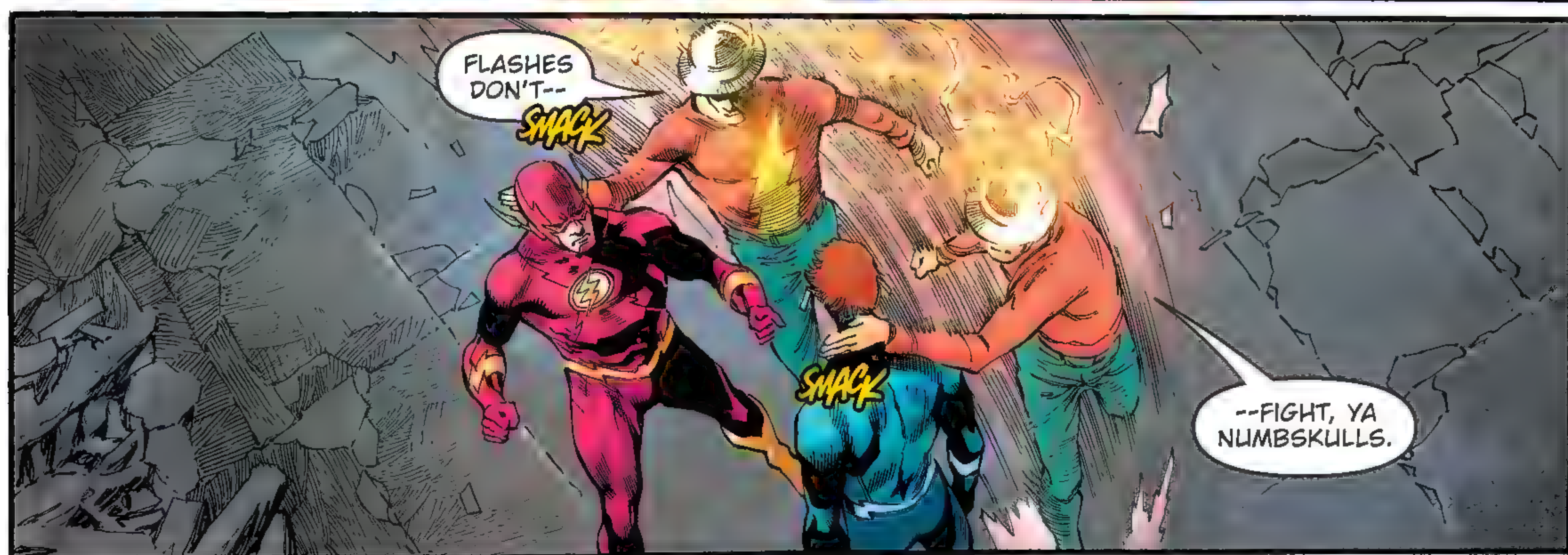
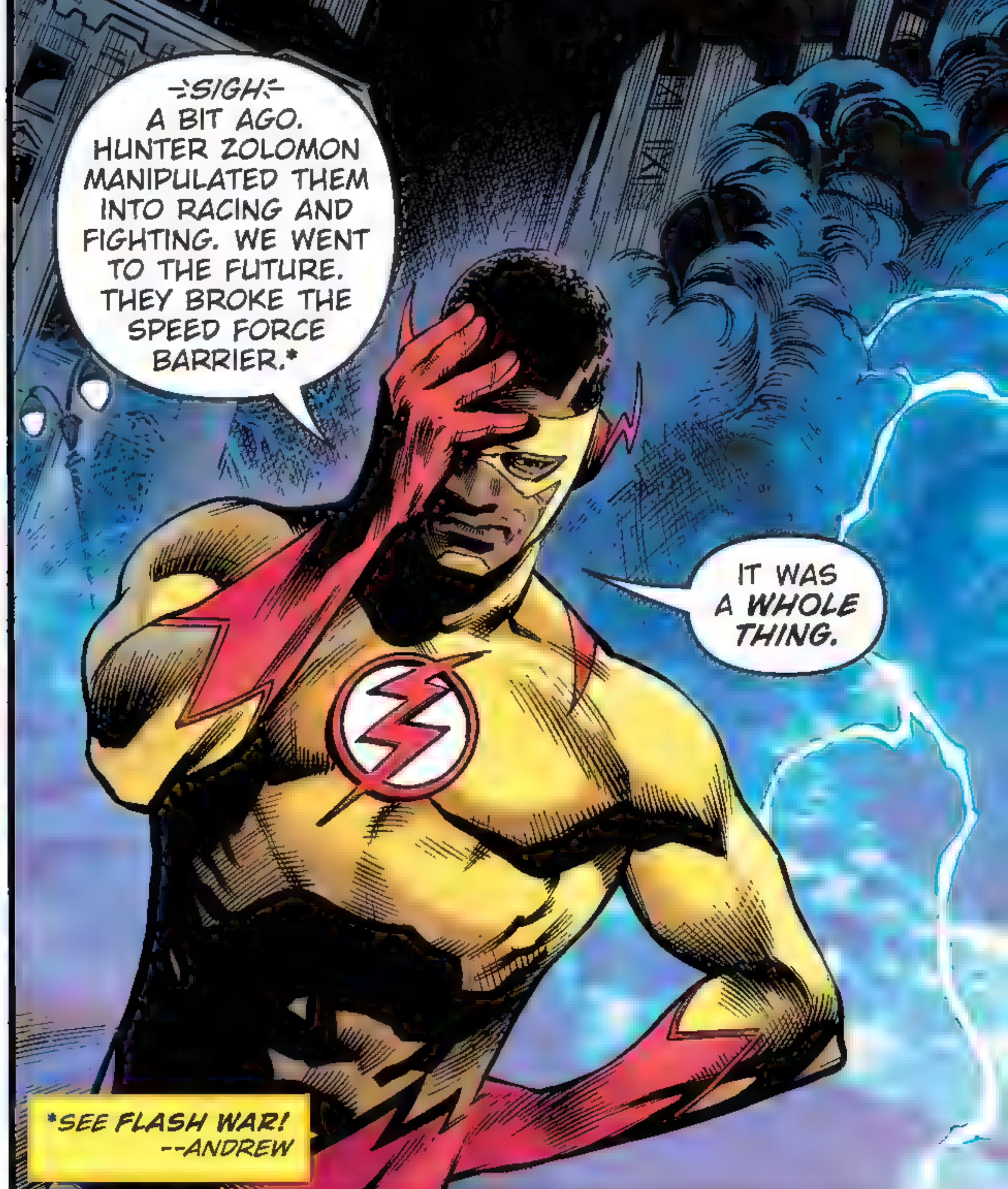
IF WALLY HADN'T ACTED SO IRRESPONSIBLY WITH THE SPEED FORMULA, WE COULD HAVE KEPT RUNNING--

I GOT US A MOMENT TO CATCH OUR BREATH.



TO DO WHAT?

I'M SORRY I DON'T HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS LIKE YOU, BARRY. PULLING FLASH FACTS OUT OF MY--



THE
MOBIUS
CHAIR.

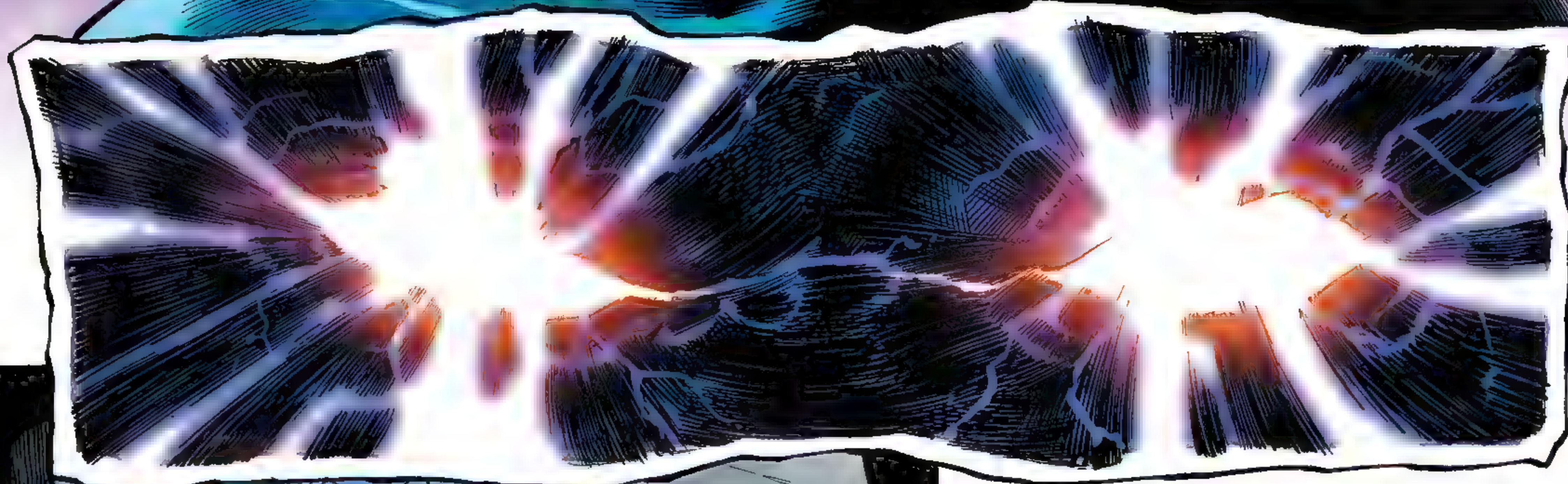
IT HOLDS THE
SECRETS OF THE
MULTIVERSE. THE UNIVERSE
MADE ME *SIT* IN IT TO MAKE
THE REPAIRS TO OUR
TIMELINE.

THE BATMAN
WHO LAUGHS
TRIED TO *STEAL*
THE KNOWLEDGE
FROM IT, BUT IT
REJECTED
HIM.

NOW THAT
HE'S GAINED
CONTROL OF THE
ANTI-CRISIS
ENERGY, HE'LL
TRY AGAIN.

BEFORE,
HE CAUGHT
ME OFF
GUARD...

...BUT
THIS TIME
I CAN BEAT
HIM TO THE
PUNCH.



THEN WE GET
THE CHAIR TO WONDER
WOMAN AND THE
JUSTICE LEAGUE.

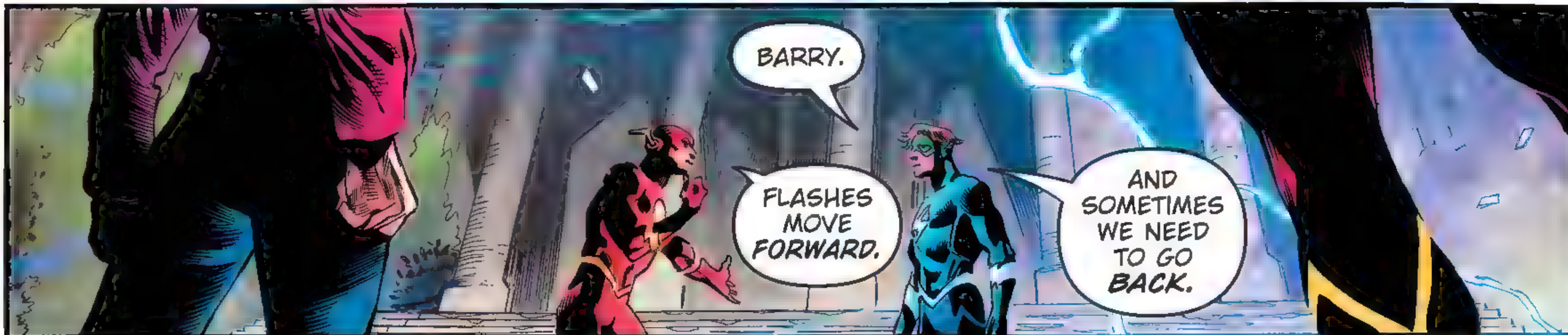
WE'D
HAVE TO RUN
BACK TOWARD
THAT HORDE,
WALLY.

WE CAN'T
CONSTANTLY RUN
IN CIRCLES, BARRY.
MAYBE WE NEED TO
BREAK THAT
CYCLE.

INSTEAD OF
RUNNING AWAY
FROM THEM...

...WE
RUN *INTO*
THEM.







I EVEN SAVED THE MULTIVERSE. TONS OF TIMES. MORE THAN I CAN COUNT. ALONE, WITH THE FLASHES, THE JUSTICE LEAGUE. OUR FAMILY.

FROM THE EDGES OF TIME TO THE FOURTH WORLD I RAN SAVING LIVES...

...AND YET I ALWAYS FEEL LIKE I'M RUNNING BEHIND YOU.

I WORKED SO HARD TO GET OUT OF YOUR SHADOW. BUT WHEN YOU RETURNED, I GOT SHOVED BACK INTO IT.

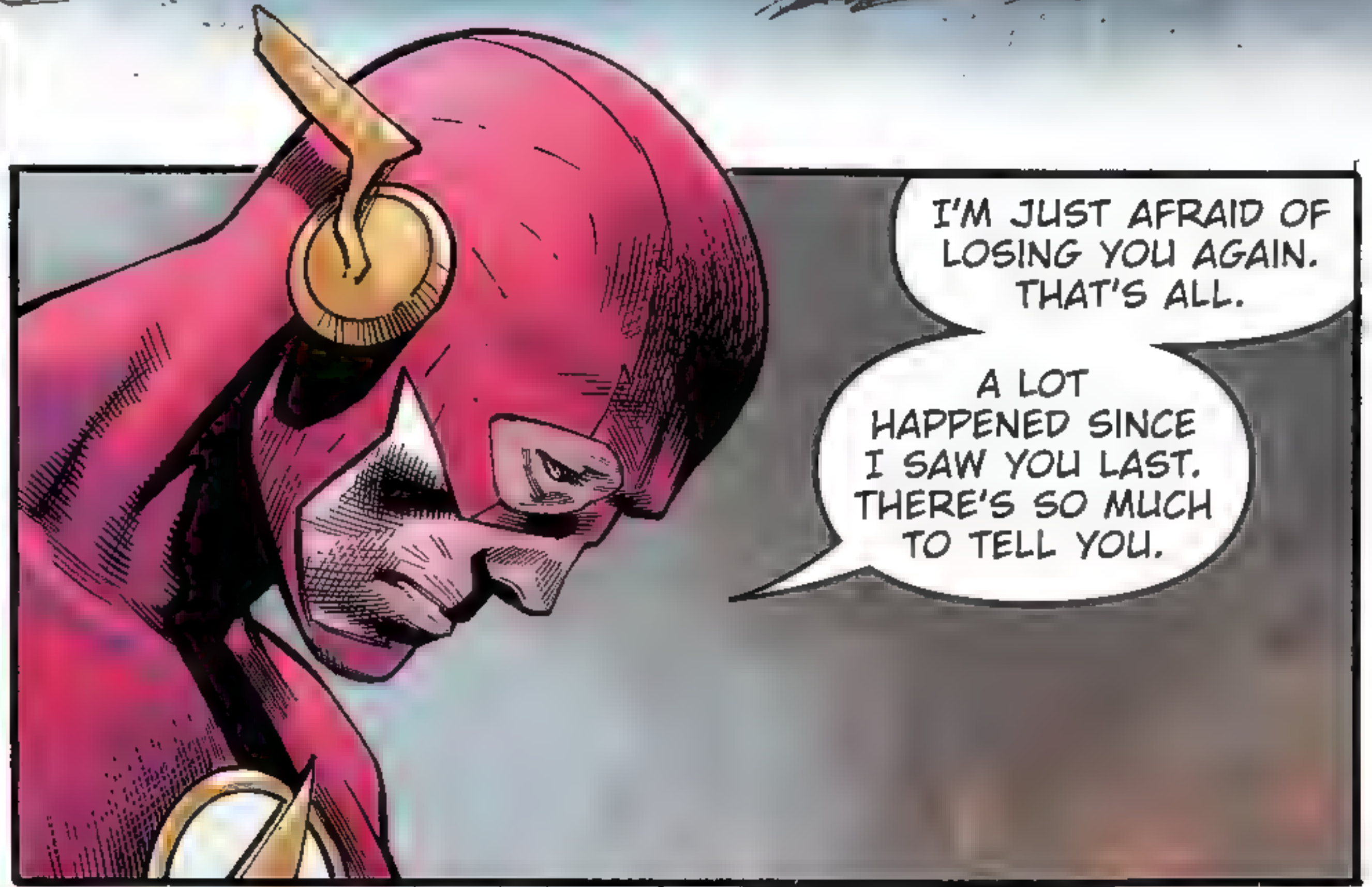


THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANTED.

WHEN I WAS GONE, I MISSED SO MUCH. AND PART OF THAT WAS YOU GROWING UP. GOING FROM KID FLASH TO THE FLASH.

AND SOMETIMES... I FORGET THAT.

THAT'S MY THING TO DEAL WITH.



I'M JUST AFRAID OF LOSING YOU AGAIN. THAT'S ALL.

A LOT HAPPENED SINCE I SAW YOU LAST. THERE'S SO MUCH TO TELL YOU.



EOBARD THAWNE SHOWED ME HOW MUCH HE HURT OUR FAMILY.* BUT I CAN'T BLAME HIM FOR ALL MY MISTAKES.

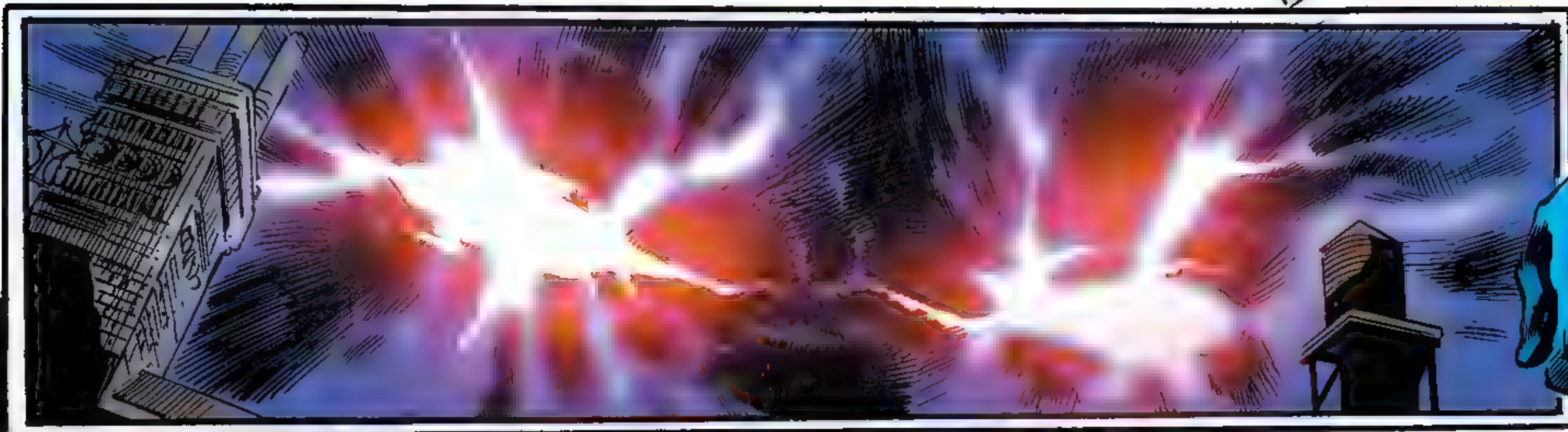
AND NOT STANDING BY YOU WHEN YOU NEEDED ME WAS ONE OF THE BIGGEST.

I'LL BE DAMNED IF I MAKE THAT MISTAKE AGAIN.

*DON'T MISS THE FLASH #762, IN-STORES RIGHT NOW!--ANDREW

WHATEVER
WE DO.

WE DO IT
TOGETHER.

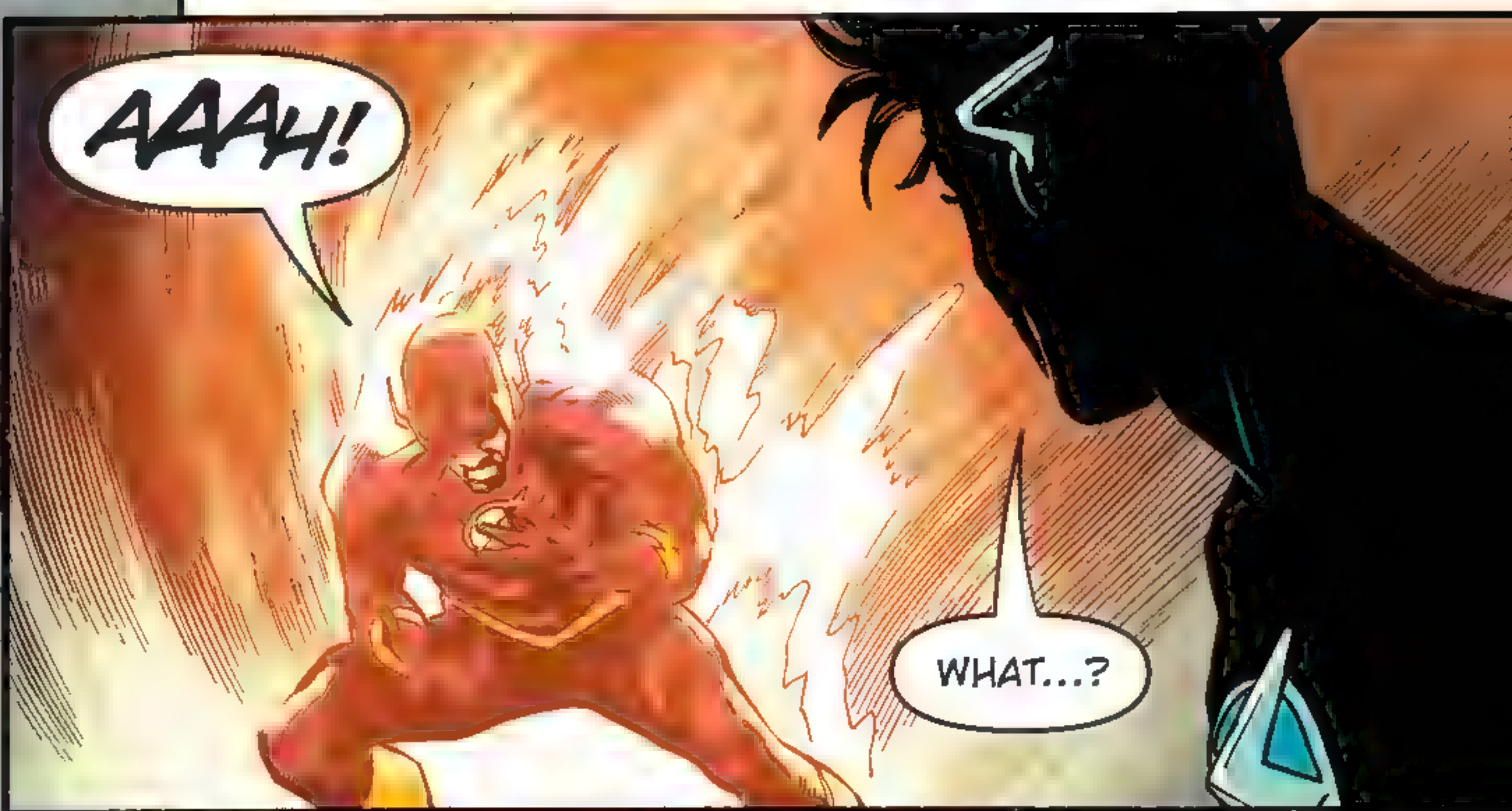


ALL RIGHT,
WE'RE DOING
WALLY'S
PLAN.

SO, WE'RE
GONNA DIVE
HEADFIRST INTO
THAT HORDE OF EVIL
FLASHES AND RUN
PAST AN EVIL BATMAN
INTO A CASTLE FILLED
WITH EVEN MORE EVIL
BATMEN TO STEAL
A COSMIC
CHAIR?

PRETTY
MUCH.

WE'RE
IN.



WHAT...?





WHAT...
WHAT THE
HELL?

THE LAST
TIME I FELT THAT...
IT WAS WHEN I WAS
TURNED INTO THE
BLACK FLASH.

IT'S
HIM.

I CAN FEEL
HIM PUTTING
PRESSURE ON
THE SPEED FORCE.
FINDING CRACKS
TO GET TO US.
CORRUPTING
IT.

I GUESS
WE BETTER
HIT THE ROAD
THEN.

RUN FASTER
AND HARDER THAN
YOU'VE EVER RUN
BEFORE. BUT STICK
TOGETHER.

JOAN AND I NEVER
HAD KIDS OF OUR OWN.
YOU BOYS WERE ENOUGH OF
A HANDFUL AS IT WAS, BUT
YOU HELPED US FEEL LIKE
WE HAD A FAMILY.

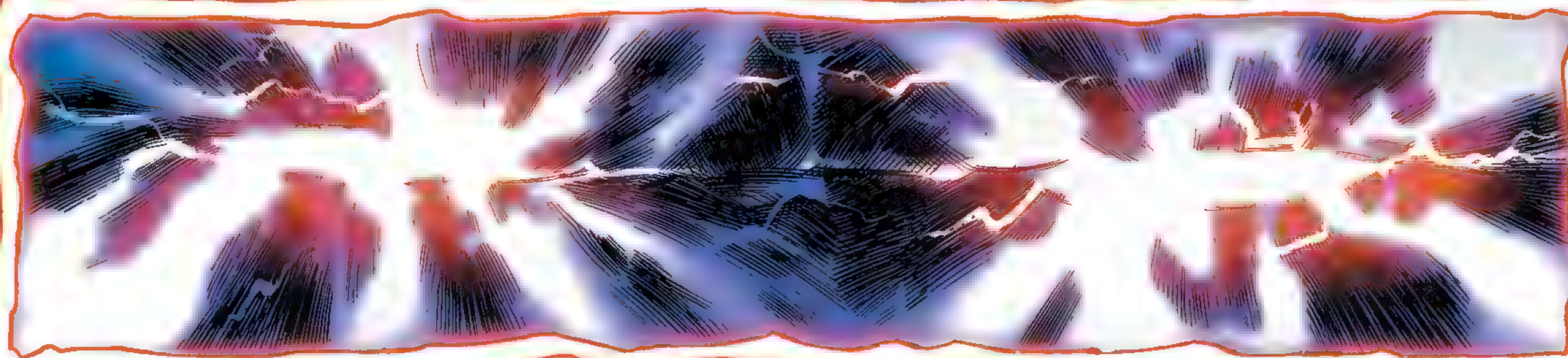
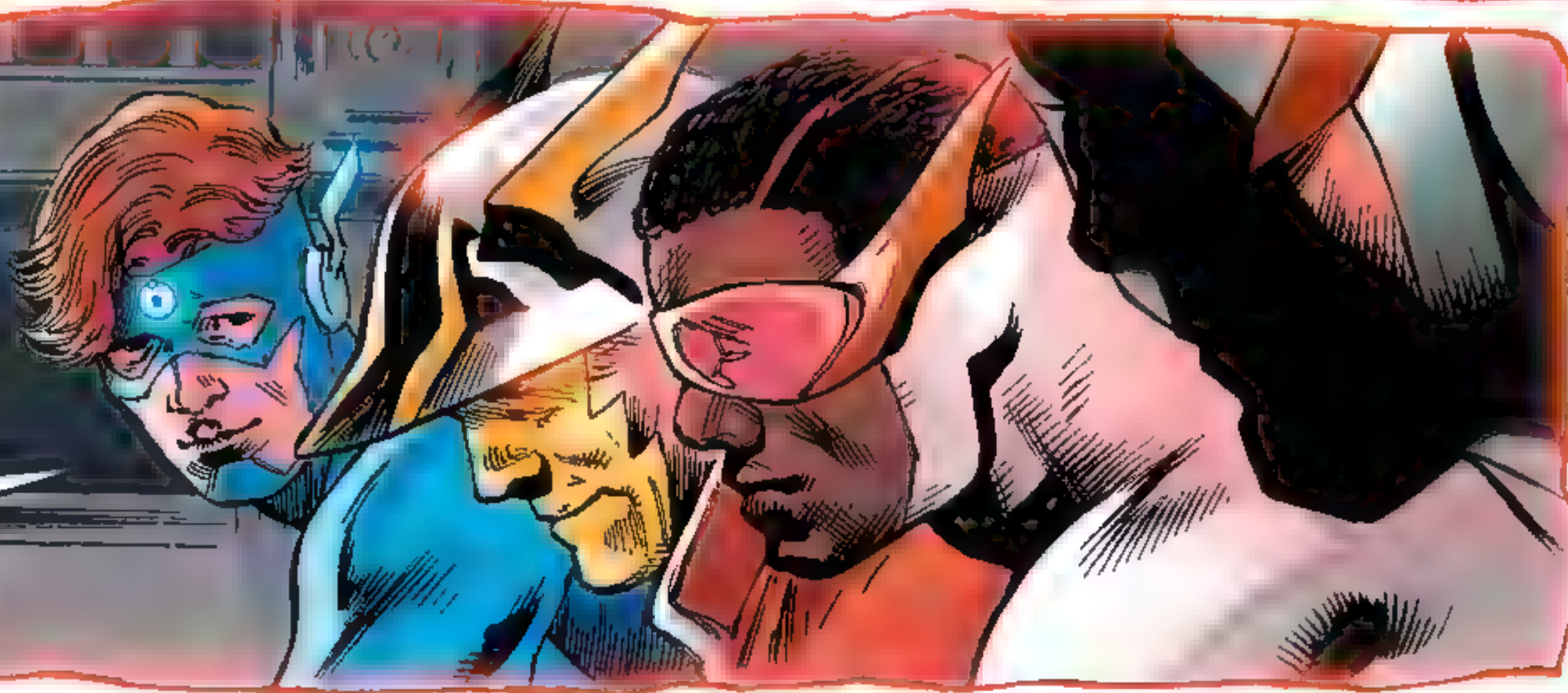
I ALWAYS
WANTED TO SEE IF
I COULD OUTPACE
YOU OLD-TIMERS
ANYWAY.

REMEMBER, WE
DON'T RUN FOR US,
WE RUN FOR THE
WORLD.



THE MOMENT TIME
RESTARTS WE HAVE TO
RUN RIGHT INTO THAT
HORDE. IT'S GOING TO
TAKE EVERYTHING
WE HAVE.

READY.
SET...



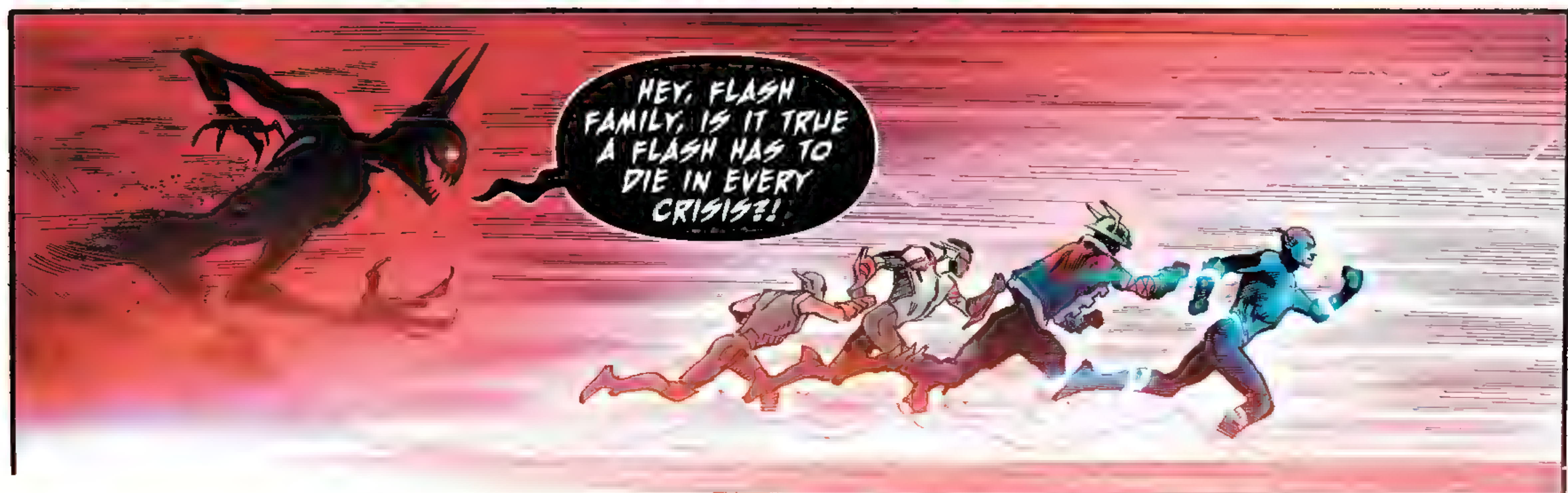
KRAKKAH-WHHOOOSH





WHATEVER
YOU DO--

--NEVER
STOP
RUNNING!







SORRY,
GENTS!

THESE
OLD BONES
AREN'T GONNA
MAKE IT.

BUT I'LL COVER
YOU! YOU KEEP GOING
THIS TIME, YOU HEAR
ME?!

WE'LL COME
BACK FOR YOU, JAY!
WE KNOW YOU CAN KEEP
THE DARK FLASHES FROM
CATCHING UP TO US!

OKAY, YOU BOYS
ARE IN FOR A TREAT.
I WAS TAUGHT HOW
TO FIGHT BY TED
GRANT.



I CAN STILL
FEEL THE CHAIR!
IT'S CLOSE!

DON'T LET
FLASH JUNIOR
ESCAPE!

I CAN'T
KEEP UP
WITH YOU
TWO.

I'M
GOING
BACK FOR
JAY! KEEP
GOING!



TWO DOWN.
TWO TO GO.
WHO FALLS
NEXT?!

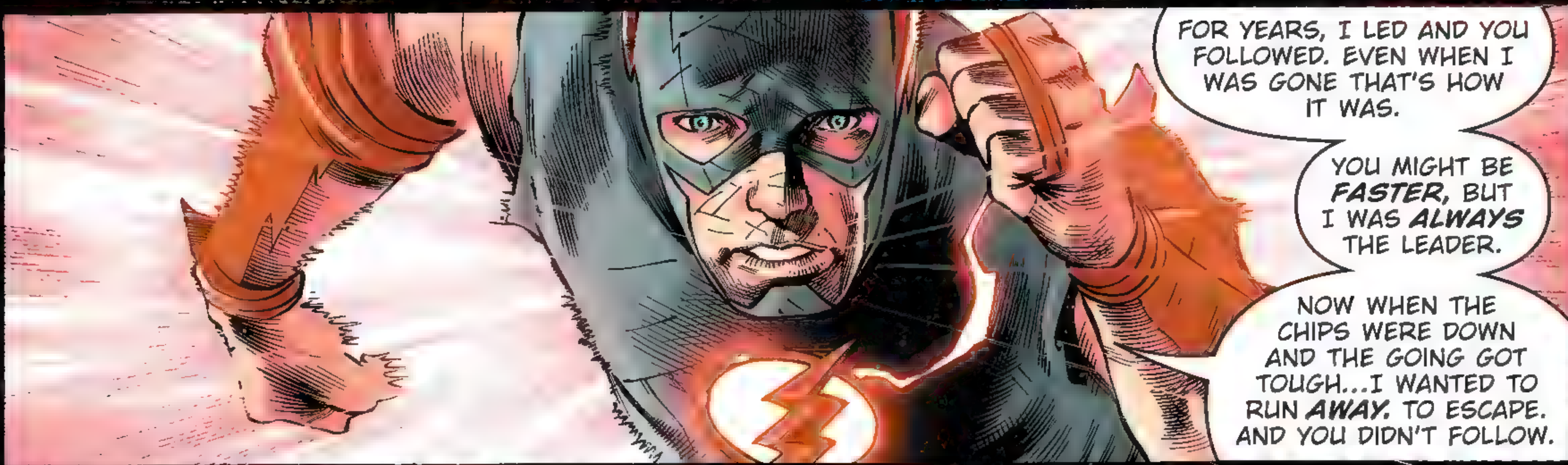
RUN RUN
RUN FUN
FUN FUN.

BARRY, I CAN FEEL
THE SPEED FORCE
BREAKING AND HE'S HOT
ON OUR HEELS. I DON'T
THINK WE CAN--



YOU
WERE *RIGHT*,
WALLY.

WHAT?!



FOR YEARS, I LED AND YOU
FOLLOWED. EVEN WHEN I
WAS GONE THAT'S HOW
IT WAS.

YOU MIGHT BE
FASTER, BUT
I WAS *ALWAYS*
THE LEADER.

NOW WHEN THE
CHIPS WERE DOWN
AND THE GOING GOT
TOUGH...I WANTED TO
RUN *AWAY*. TO ESCAPE.
AND YOU DIDN'T FOLLOW.



YOU COULD HAVE STAYED BEHIND ME
AGAIN IN MY SHADOW. BUT YOU
CHOSE YOUR OWN PATH.

THAT'S WHY
I KNOW YOU CAN
DO THIS.



I KEEP TRYING TO USE
THE ANTI-CRISIS ENERGY
TO GO FASTER AND IT'S
NOT ENOUGH.

BARRY,
I--



JUST LISTEN, OKAY? YOU
ALWAYS SAID I INSPIRED
YOU. WELL TODAY YOU
INSPIRED *ME*.

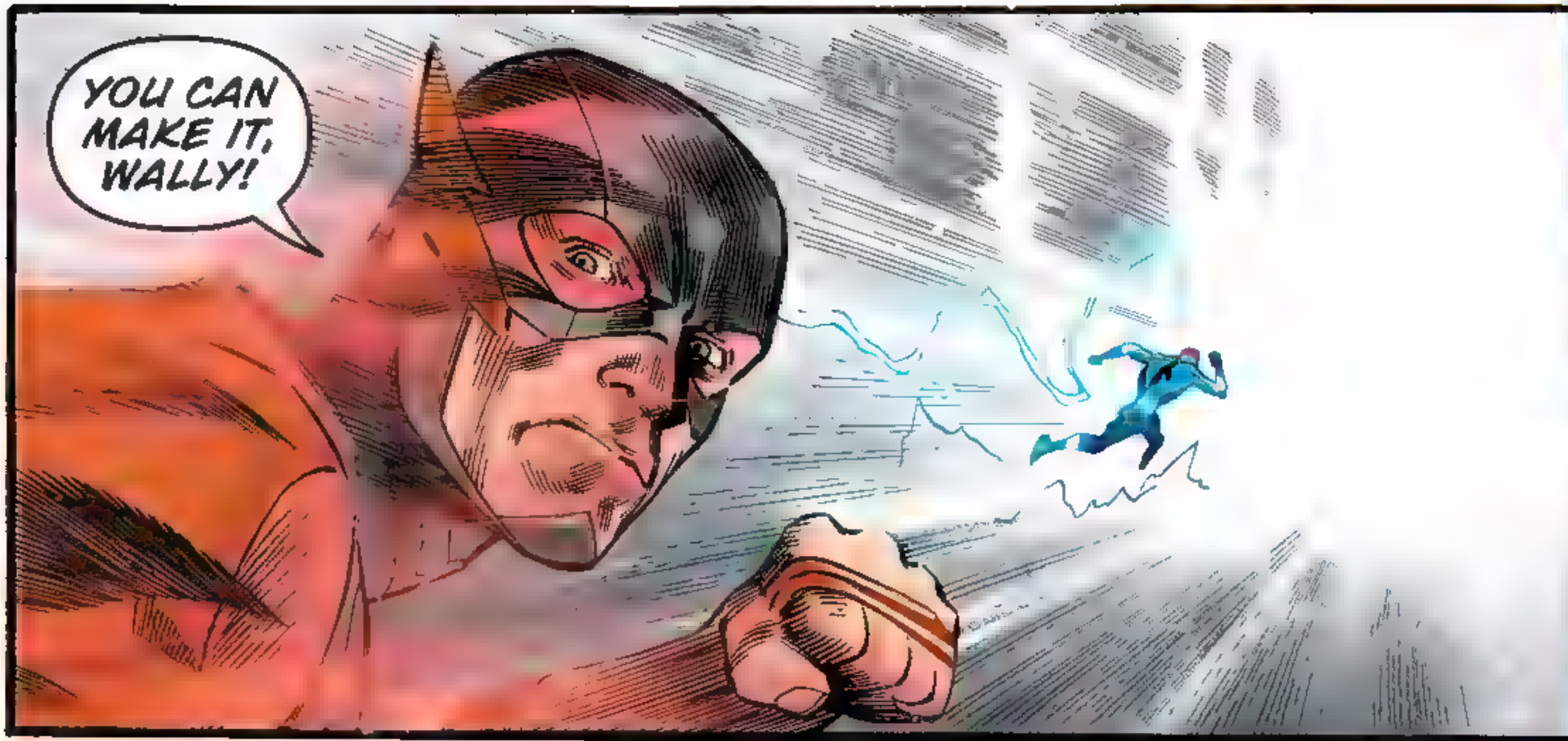
DON'T USE
THAT POWER,
WALLY...



USE
MINE!

KRAKAKA

OUR
SPEED
FORCE!



YOU CAN
MAKE IT,
WALLY!



CAN'T LET BARRY'S
SACRIFICE GO TO WASTE. I
CAN ALREADY FEEL HIS SPEED
MERGE WITH MINE, MAKING ME
FASTER THAN EVER BEFORE...



YOU REALLY THINK
YOU HAVE A CHANCE WHEN
YOUR MENTOR FAILED,
WALLY?!



THEIR CLAWS DON'T JUST PIERCE MY
COSTUME AND MY FLESH...THEY TEAR
INTO THE SPEED FORCE ITSELF...INTO
EVERY OUNCE OF MY BEING.



THEY TRY TO
HOLD ME BACK
JUST LIKE SO
MUCH IN MY
LIFE THE LAST
FEW YEARS.



THEY WANT ME
SCARED. TO
FOCUS ON MY
SETBACKS AND
STRUGGLES.

BUT I'M DONE
DOING THAT...

....I'M THINKING ABOUT WHAT GIVES ME HOPE.

THE PEOPLE THAT ALWAYS KEPT ME MOVING NO MATTER HOW HARD THINGS GOT.

MY LIGHTNING RODS.

I NEED TO STOP WAITING FOR THE UNIVERSE TO SHOW ME A PATH AND MAKE MY OWN.

I REMEMBER THE INSCRIPTION ON THE WATCH BARRY GAVE ME...

ALL I NEED IS...

ONE...

MORE...

...SECOND!

Every Second is a Gift

KKAKAKAK

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ONE...

MORE...

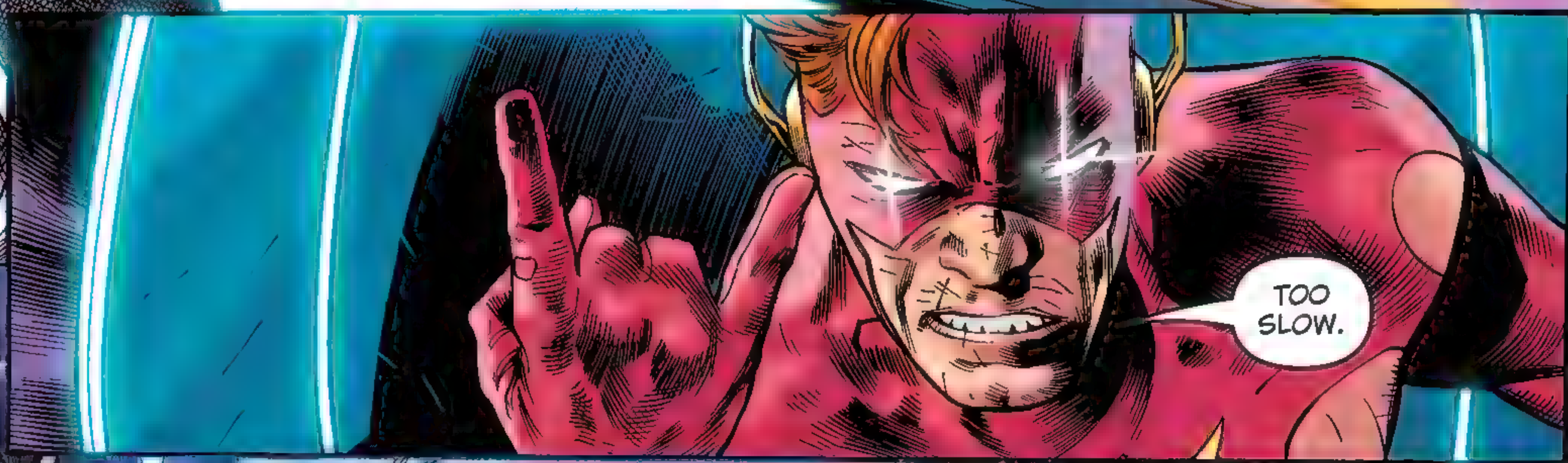
...SECOND!

Every Second is a Gift

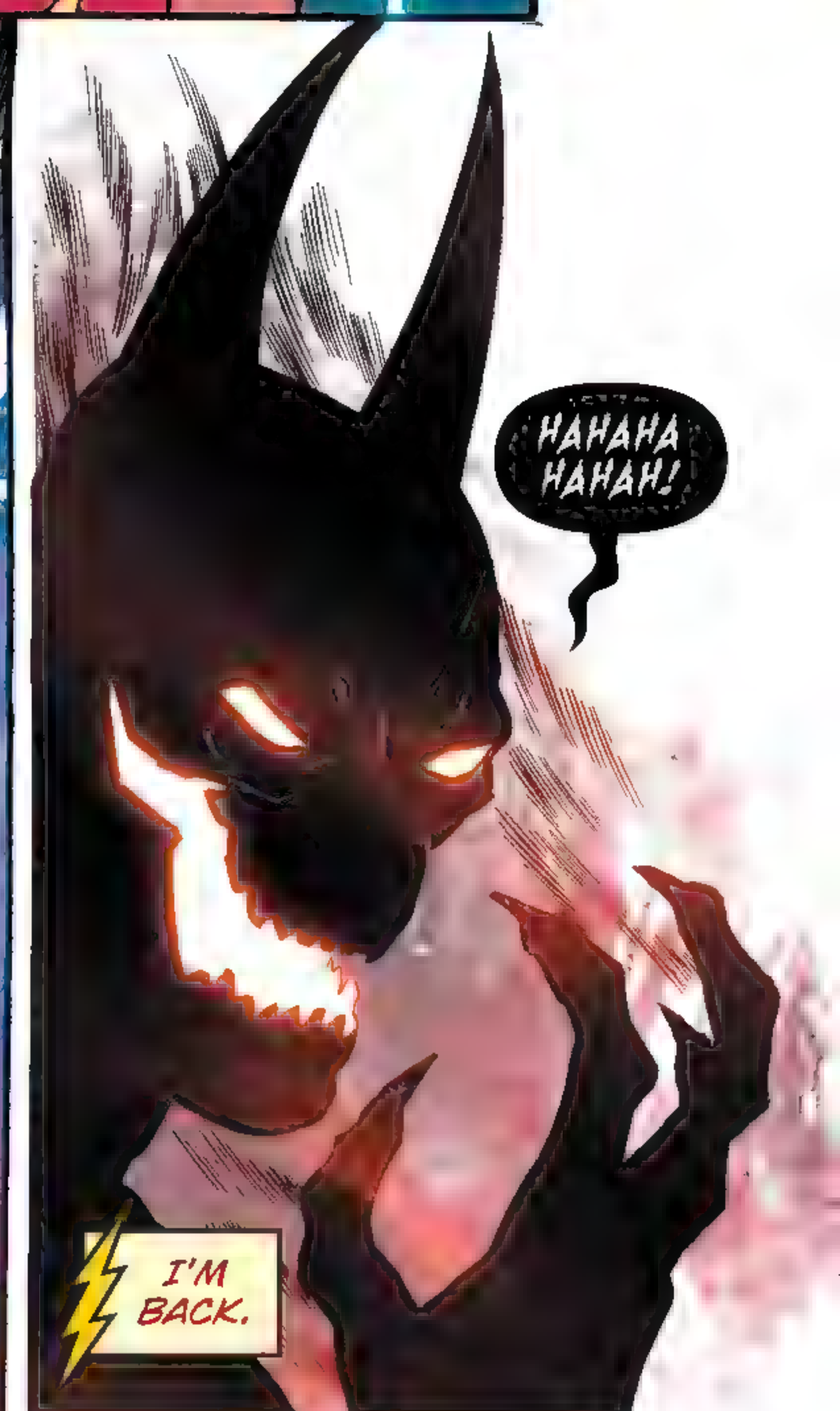
KKAKAK



HEY, BATMAN
WHO TRIES
TOO HARD.

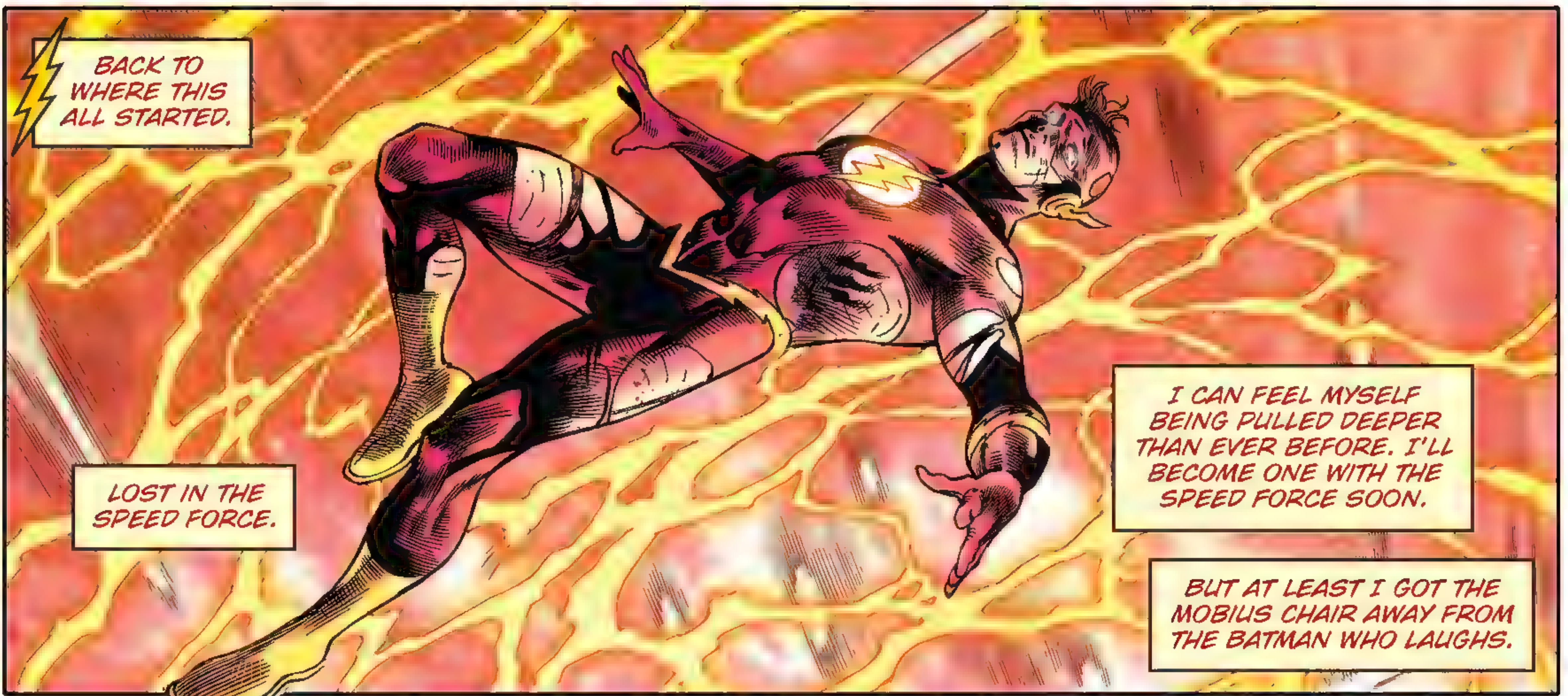


TOO
SLOW.



HAHAHA
HAHAH!

I'M
BACK.

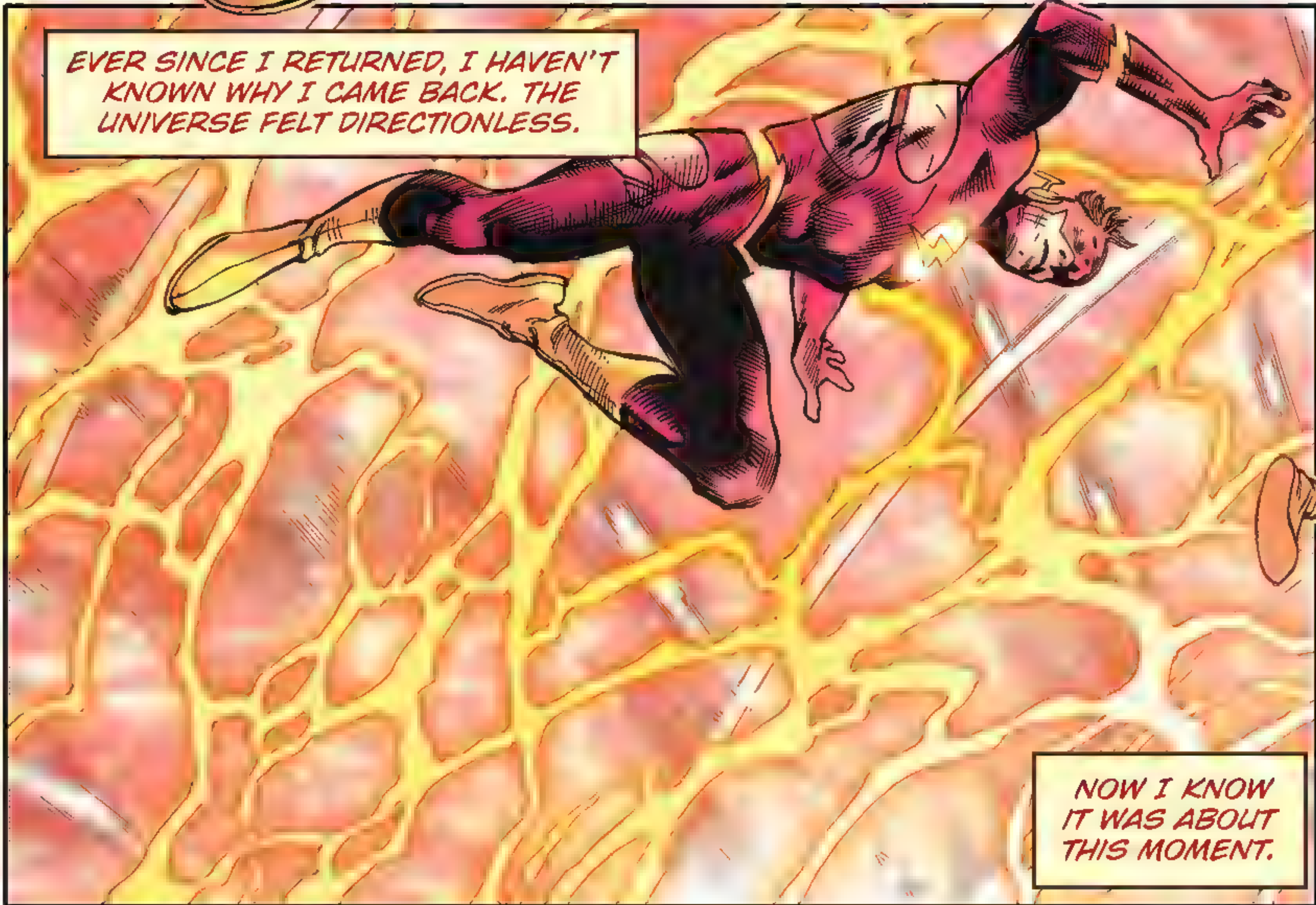


BACK TO WHERE THIS ALL STARTED.

LOST IN THE SPEED FORCE.

I CAN FEEL MYSELF BEING PULLED DEEPER THAN EVER BEFORE. I'LL BECOME ONE WITH THE SPEED FORCE SOON.

BUT AT LEAST I GOT THE MOBIUS CHAIR AWAY FROM THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS.

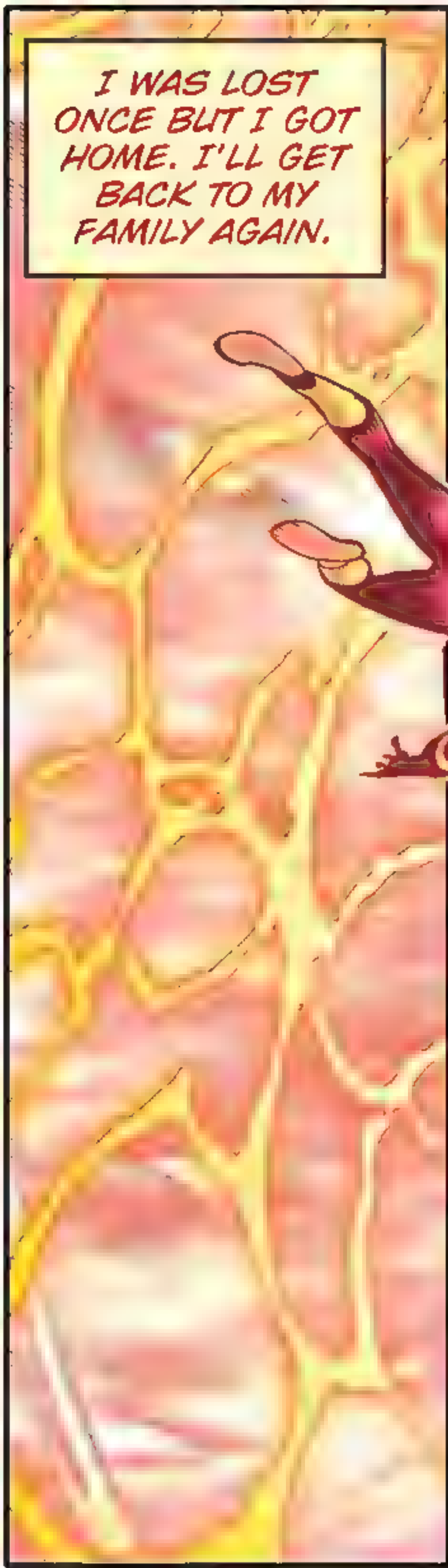


EVER SINCE I RETURNED, I HAVEN'T KNOWN WHY I CAME BACK. THE UNIVERSE FELT DIRECTIONLESS.

NOW I KNOW IT WAS ABOUT THIS MOMENT.



LAST TIME I FELT PEACE, BUT THIS TIME I FEEL HOPE.



I WAS LOST ONCE BUT I GOT HOME. I'LL GET BACK TO MY FAMILY AGAIN.



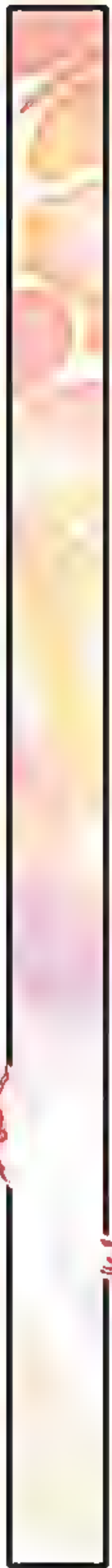
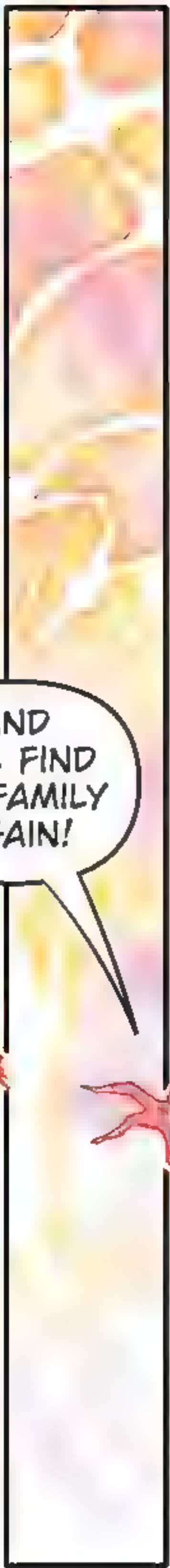
YOU HEAR ME, UNIVERSE?!



MY NAME IS WALLY WEST!



AND I'LL FIND MY FAMILY AGAIN!



WALLY...

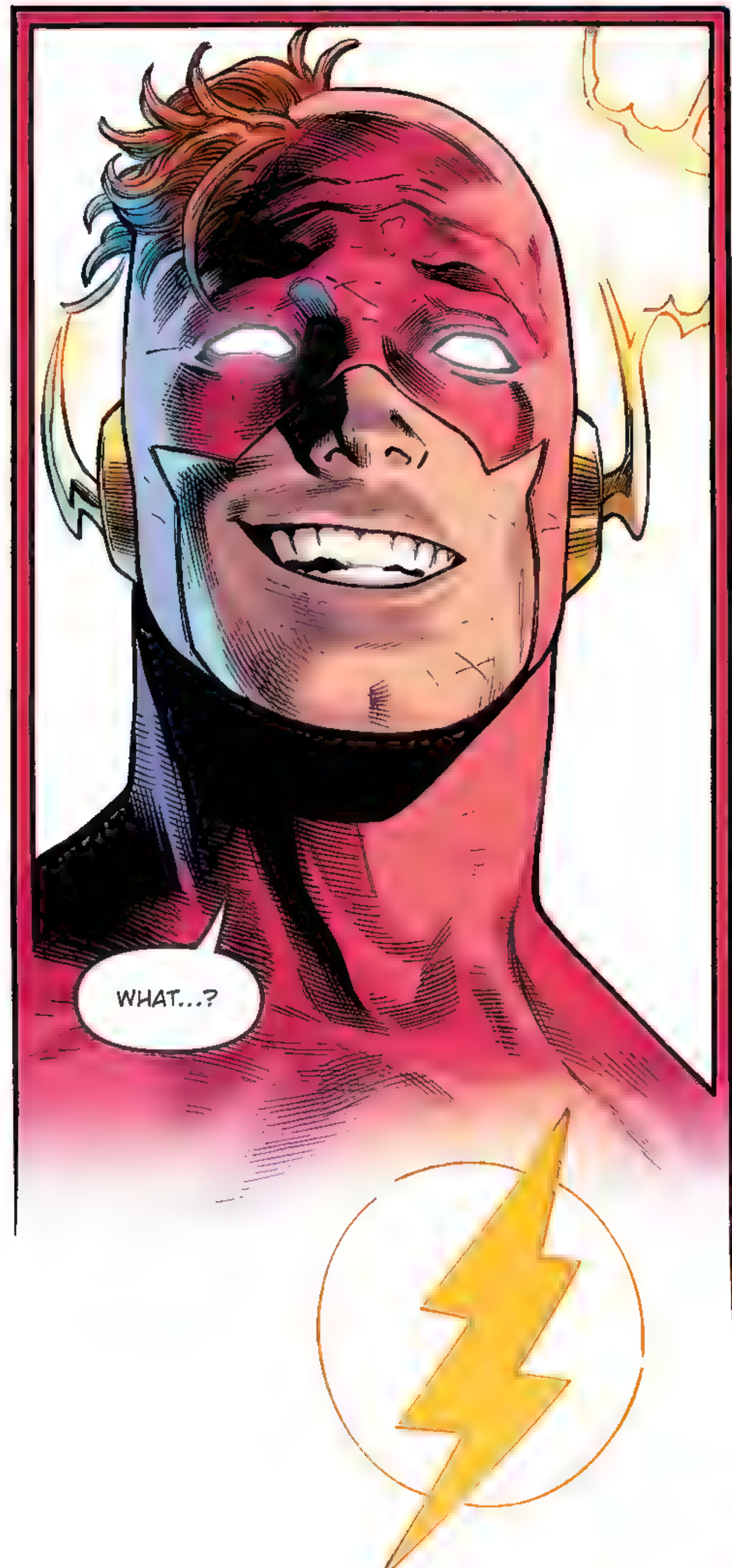
...YOU DON'T HAVE TO...



WE
CAME TO
YOU THIS
TIME.

WHEN YOU
GOT THE CHAIR,
YOU PULLED US
OUT OF THE
FIRE.

THAT WAS
DEFINITELY A
CLOSE CALL.

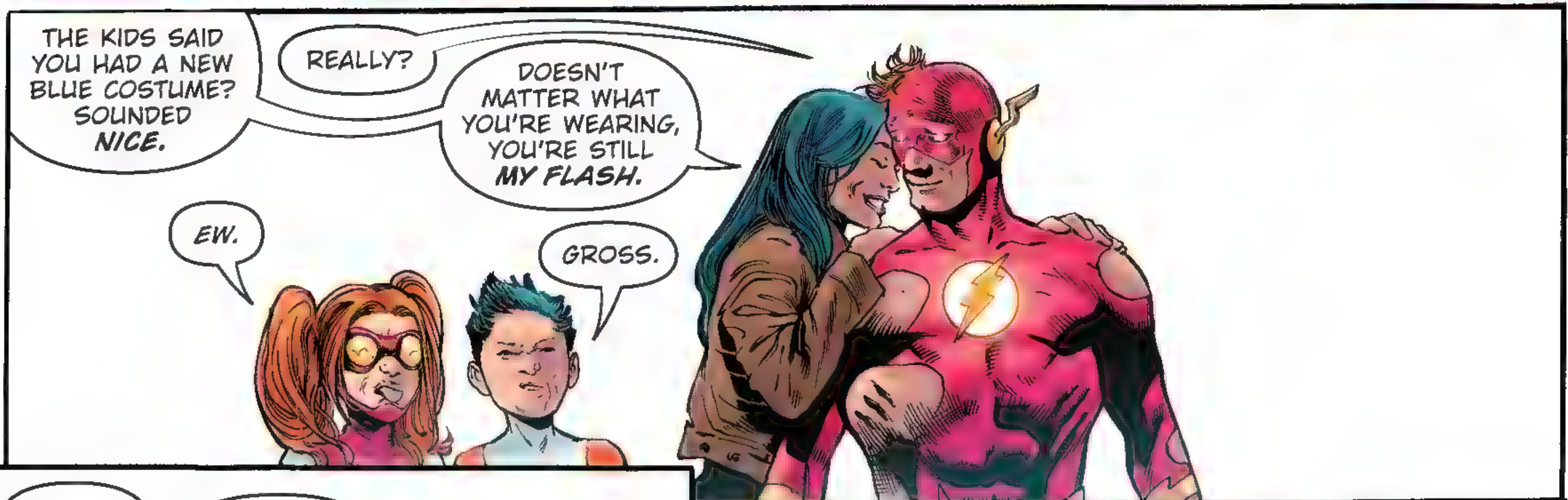
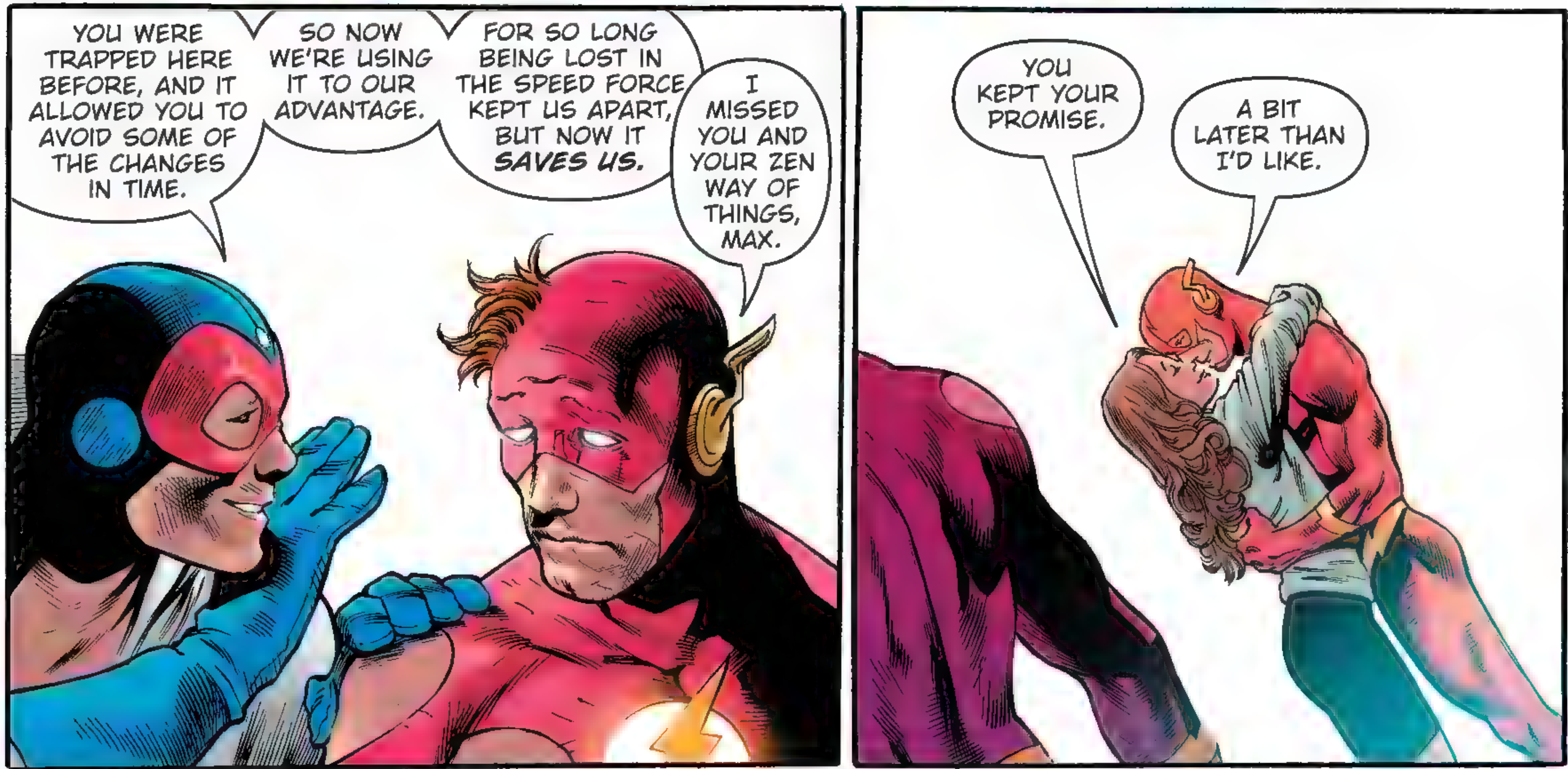
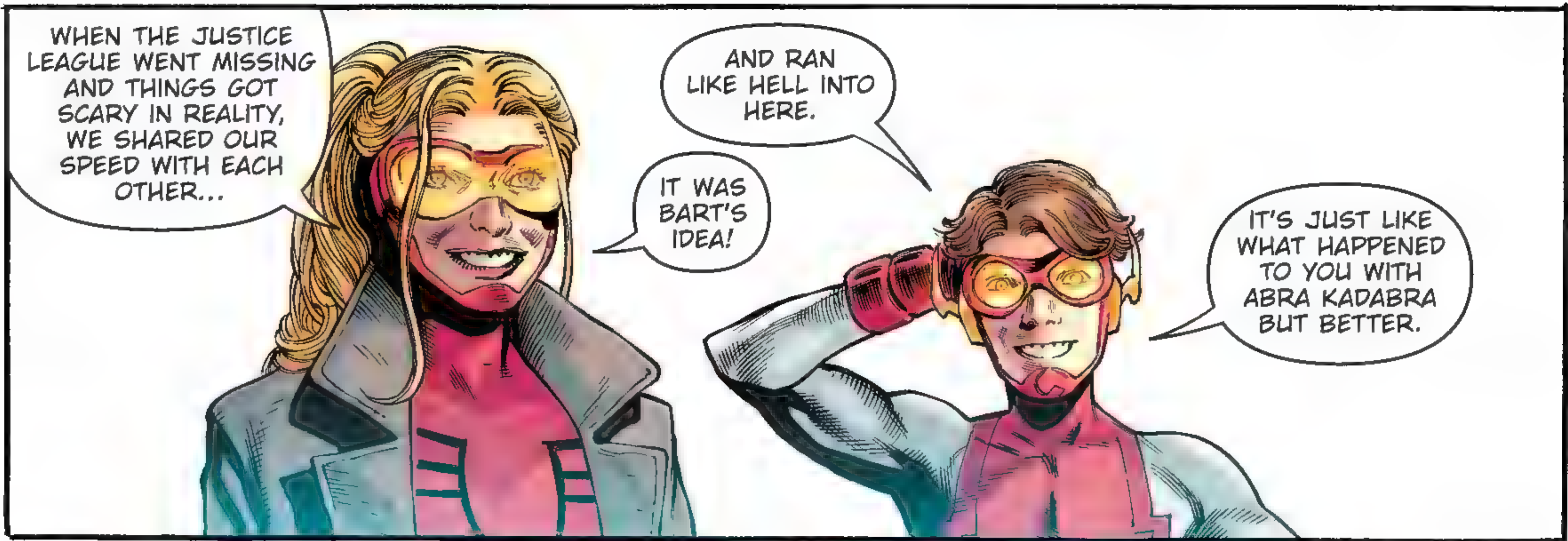


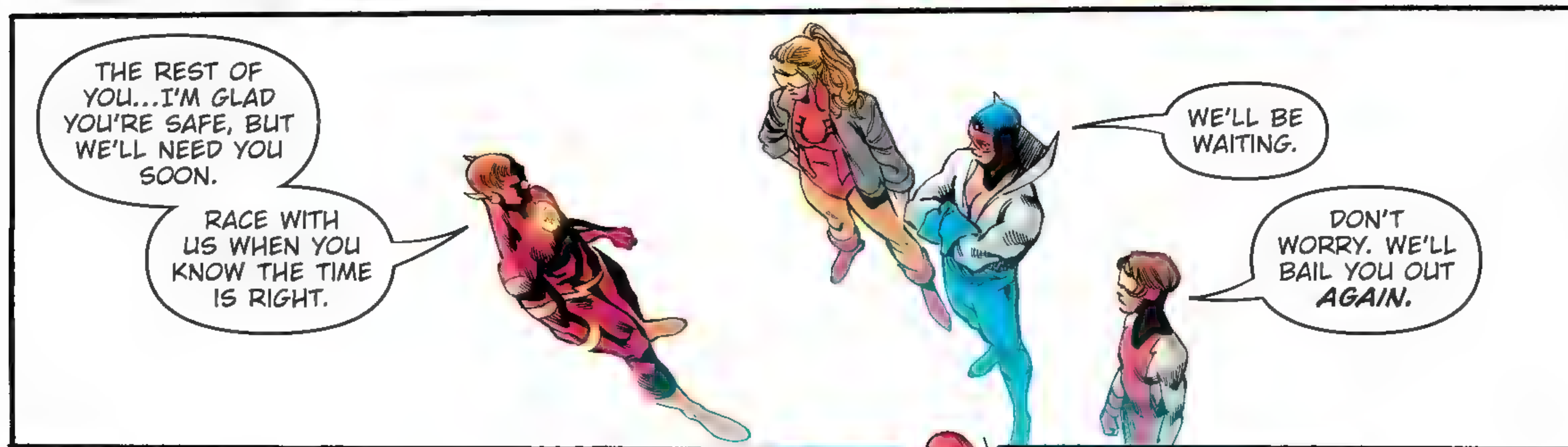
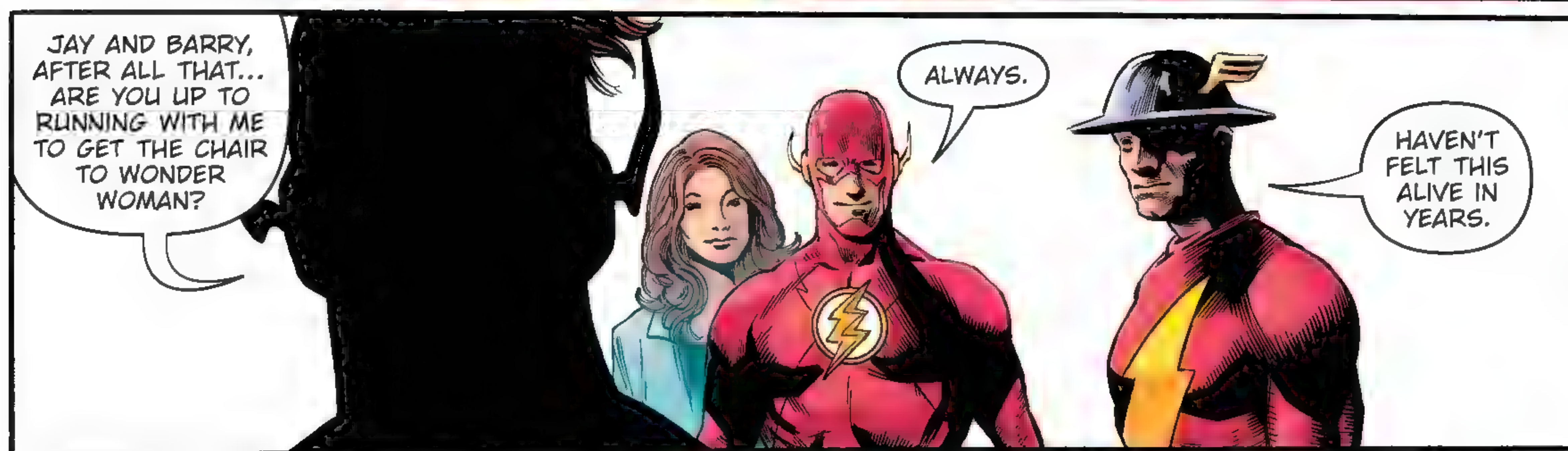
WHAT...?



HOW...?

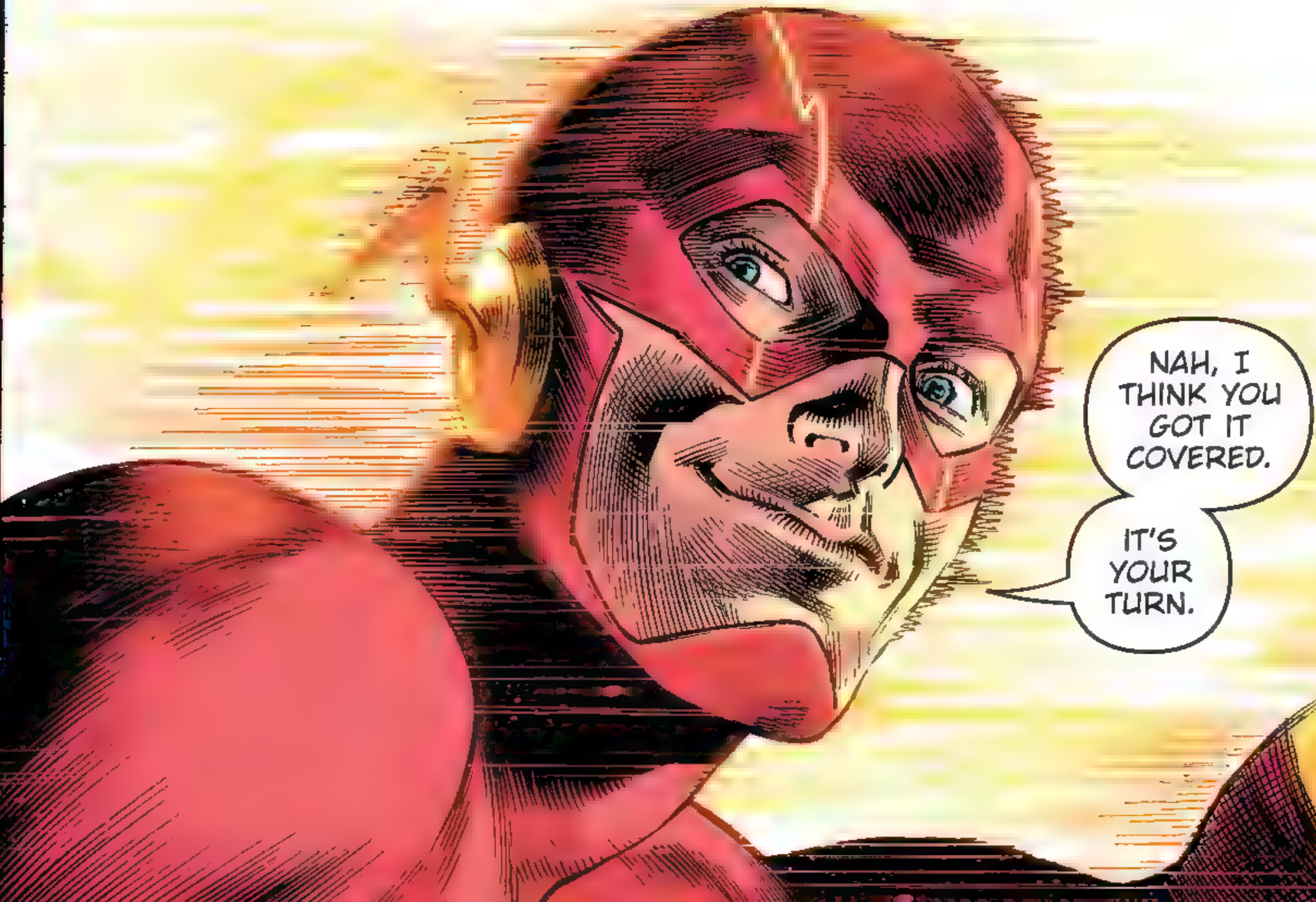
DAD!







I GOT THAT
COVERED. FOR
THE MOBIUS
CHAIR TO FOLLOW
US, I NEED TO
CHANNEL WHAT'S
LEFT OF MY
ANTI-CRISIS
ENERGY.





DAMN
RIGHT.

To Be
Continued in
Death Metal #4!

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FROM TODAY
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millennium**

Story by **BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS** Art by **RYAN SOOK**

November



After a shocking ending to *Batman: Three Jokers* #1, the stakes continue to escalate in this month's *Batman: Three Jokers* #2. Artist Jason Fabok discusses teaming with writer Geoff Johns for the long-anticipated series.

— PART III — INTERVIEW WITH JASON FABOK

HOW DID YOU APPROACH THE VISUAL STYLE OF *BATMAN: THREE JOKERS*?

JASON: Right from the beginning, Geoff and I had talked a lot about *Batman: The Killing Joke*. I studied what Brian Bolland did and used that as my foundation to build upon. At the same time, I wanted to infuse it with some of my favorite influences. There are nods to *Batman '89*, in the design of the buildings and the setting of Gotham.

I'm using that 1980s aesthetic, and then bringing it to 2020. I just wanted to go with my gut feeling of how I've always wanted to draw a Batman story, and it flowed from there.

WHAT WAS YOUR PROCESS IN MAKING EACH OF THE TITULAR THREE JOKERS DISTINCT?

JASON: We did lots of research. I did tons of different drawings. I did concept sketches for almost every single Joker who's ever appeared in comics history.

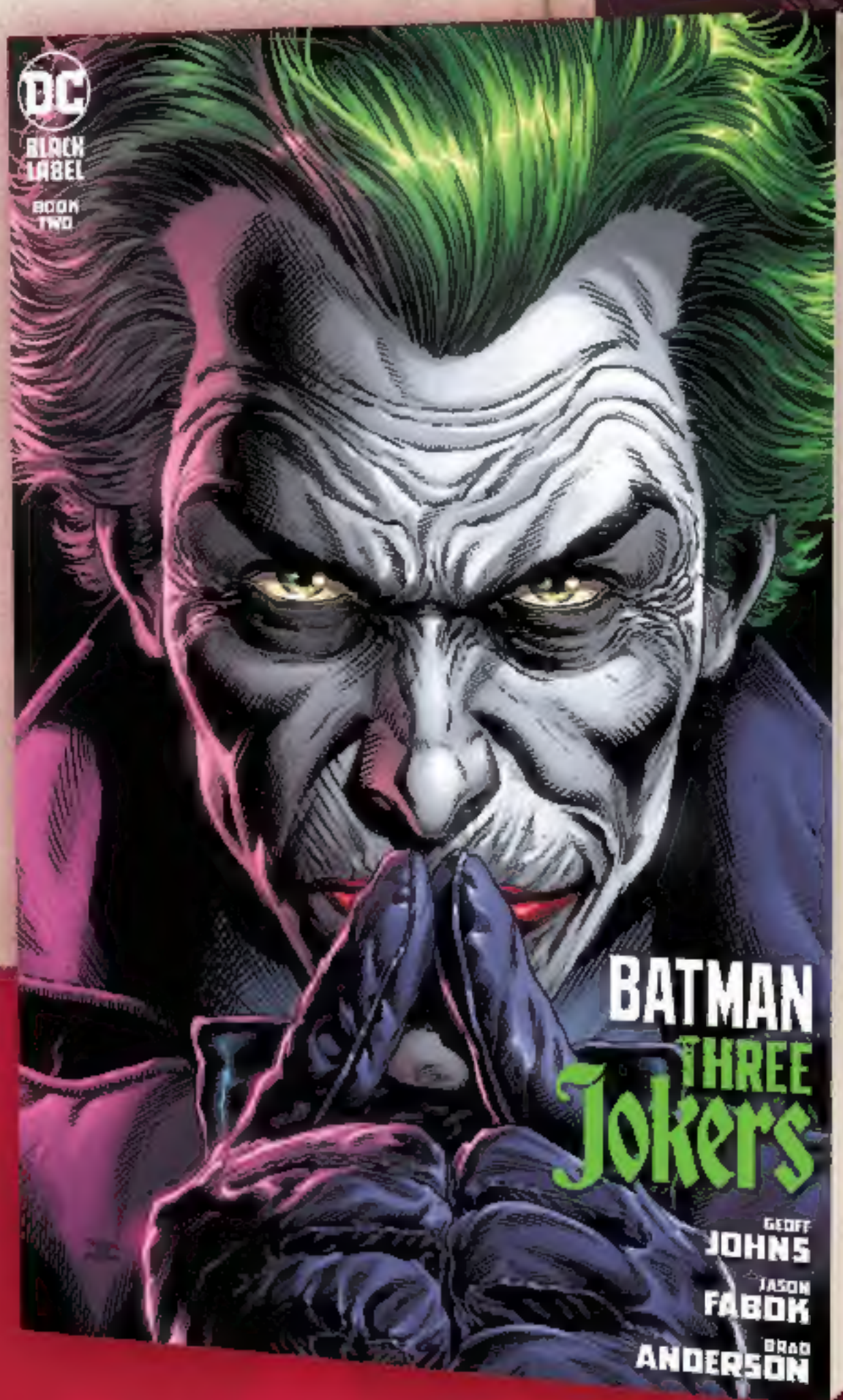
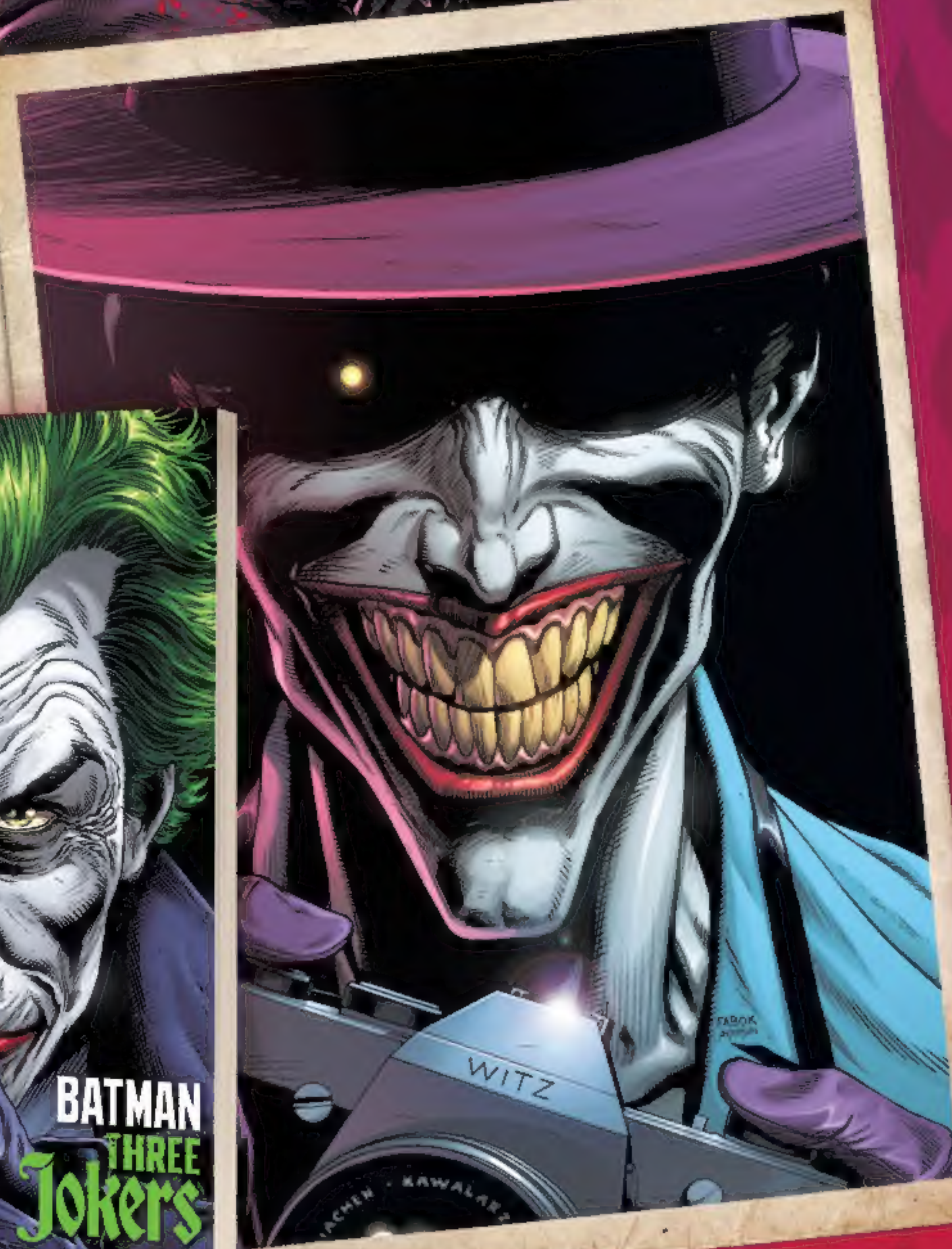
In the end, we decided on the Golden Age Joker, who is this stoic thinker—he's not a psychotic, laughing clown. Then you've got your prankster Joker from the '50s; then you have your *Batman: The Killing Joke*, modern Joker.

I consciously chose to draw the characters with very similar bone structure and builds. People keep bringing up, "How come Batman wouldn't notice there are three different Jokers?" It's because they look like they all could be the same guy.

HAVE YOU LEARNED ANYTHING ABOUT THE JOKER THAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW BEFORE?

JASON: I really loved going back and reading older comics. I've probably read *Batman: The Killing Joke* now more than any other single comic book. There are so many little subtle things that Brian Bolland does with his art, and little subtle things that Alan Moore drops in about the character of The Joker that you pick up as you read it more and more.

I really enjoy the Golden Age Joker. I reread *Batman* #1 and really enjoyed that issue. It stands up—the way The Joker was originally portrayed as this really freaky, scary gangster, but not psychotic.



BATMAN: THREE JOKERS #2
ON SALE IN SEPTEMBER



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AGES 17+

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